

PREFACE

The two authors have been long associated with the International Society of Nephrology. Roscoe R. “Ike” Robinson was the Founding Editor of the Society’s official journal, *Kidney International* (1972–85), and Editor of the Proceedings of the 1984 Congress in Los Angeles. He is a former President of the Society (1990–93) who served on the Society’s Executive Committee from the summer of 1971 until the 1995 Congress in Madrid. Gabriel Richet was a member of Jean Hamburger’s founding Parisian unit, Co-General Secretary of the First Congress in Geneva/Evian and Editor of its Proceedings.

He is a founding Co-Editor of the Society’s first official Journal, *Nephron* (1964–72), a former ISN President (1981–84), and a long-serving member of the Society’s Executive Committee or its preceding equivalent (until 1987). Much of the information pertaining to the Society’s formative years was derived from Richet’s earlier History (until 1984) on file in the Society’s Archives. The authors are indebted to the support of current and past officers and others too numerous to mention, but most especially to Ms. Ilja Huang, Executive Director of the ISN Secretariat in Amsterdam.

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Crucible for the birth of an idea

The International Society of Nephrology was conceived during the decade of the 1950s and birthed during the earliest years of the 1960s. It is not surprising that such was the case, given the fact that the years following World War II were laden with increasing excitement for those whose interests centered on the kidneys in either health or disease. These years witnessed one exciting advance after another. Led by investigators such as Homer Smith and R.F. Pitts, the advent of renal clearance techniques and an improved understanding of kidney function was giving rise to modern physiological concepts that were awaiting clinical application. Measurements of the composition of body fluids were facilitated by the development of new research tools such as the flame photometer, pH meter, and osmometer, which led to new insights into the causes and nature of altered salt, water and acid-base metabolism. The promising work of clinical investigators such as Nils Alwall and Wilhem Kolff led eventually to the application of hemodialysis in the treatment of acute renal failure, soon accompanied by recognition of the fact that renal injury inductive of acute renal failure was capable of self-healing and potential reversibility given time and general supportive care. Events such as these were followed by an exciting cascade of other advances: percutaneous kidney biopsy and the application of electron microscopy to kidney tissue; the morphological dissection of glomerulonephritis; successful kidney transplantation between nonidentical twins; the introduction of new and more powerful oral diuretic agents; new and more effective drugs for the treatment of hypertension; development of the Teflon cannula and Belding Scribner's application of repetitive hemodialysis to patients with chronic renal failure; the introduction of 6-mercaptopurine for immunosuppression; and last, but by no means least, the emergence of further understandings in renal physiology occasioned by the recognition of counter-current exchange, the renewed application of renal micropuncture, stop-flow analysis, studies of ion transport by isolated epithelia, etc. The scientific and clinical foundations for the future medical specialty of nephrology were being laid and they provided a natural multidisciplinary meeting point for clinicians who wished to further their understanding of kidney disease and its consequences, and for biological scientists who sought a greater understanding of renal structure and function and their interrelationships. The flow of new basic and physiologic information was sufficiently large and relevant that it began to change the way clinicians thought about kidney dis-

ease. The emergence of a completely new medical specialty was the result.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEPHROLOGY AS A CLINICAL SPECIALTY AND THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM

International meetings relevant to nephrology are exceedingly commonplace in today's world. International transportation is rapid and communication can be almost instantaneous. Contemporary nephrologists may therefore be surprised by the unique nature of a first-ever international meeting in nephrology, including the vision and the amount of time, effort, and diplomacy that were necessary to bring the first Congress and the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) into being. A consideration of the setting and the people that gave rise to these two events is appropriate.

It was in 1951 that Jean Hamburger (1909–92) and his young assistant, Gabriel Richet, left the large and undifferentiated medical service of Professor Pasteur Vallery Radot at the Hôpital Broussais to establish a medical specialty unit at the Hôpital Necker in Paris. It was then possible in France for a new Chief of a Department of Medicine to develop a clinical service along the lines of his or her own interest, and Hamburger took full advantage of that opportunity. Typical of those in postwar France, the physical accommodations at Necker were dreadful, but they were nevertheless destined to witness the emergence of the most prominent specialized center for the study and treatment of kidney diseases in France. Hamburger's early interest in the *milieu interieur* and alterations of salt and water metabolism, with a particular interest in those occasioned by kidney failure, naturally led to a parallel focus on the concept and methods of metabolic intensive care as early as 1952. A unit for the treatment of acute renal failure was first established utilizing early techniques of exchange transfusion and peritoneal or intestinal dialysis. These programs were complemented by studies of experimental kidney transplantation in animals which, in December 1952, culminated unexpectedly in a dramatic transplant from a mother to her healthy but surgically anephric son at her urgent request. The kidney functioned immediately and well for 22 days, thereby forecasting the favorable contribution of genetic histocompatibility to future outcomes.

In 1954, Richet was sent to Boston for two months to observe the operation of the Kolff-Brigham rotating



Fig. 1. The Hamburger Unit in the courtyard of the old Hôpital Necker. Front row, left to right: J.-L. Funck-Brentano, J. Crosnier, J. Rosa (a resident), J. Hamburger, J. Dormont (an intern), G. Richet, and H. Ducrot. (Courtesy of Mde. J. Hamburger)

drum artificial kidney under the tutelage of John P. Merrill [1]. Coincidentally, he also attended the annual “Atlantic City meetings” on Sunday, May 2, 1954 and heard R.C. Muehrcke’s oral presentation on percutaneous kidney biopsy in the prone position [1, 2]. Upon his return, Hamburger and Richet set about establishing one of the first two hemodialysis units in Paris. They improved the rotating drum dialyzer and embarked upon the development of an ever broader and deeper program for the study and treatment of patients with kidney disease. It first centered on the dialytic treatment of acute renal failure in an intensive care setting and included, at least initially, kidney biopsy with light and electron microscopy, immunoelectrophoresis, and experimental transplantation.

The impact of this early freestanding and full service specialty unit in Europe cannot be overstated. Two other French units were established simultaneously: one led by Derot and Legrain in Paris and another headed by Traeger in Lyon [1]. From the very beginning patients were referred to the Hamburger service from all over France and the French colonies. The small team of Hamburger and Richet soon expanded to include the valuable additions of Jean Crosnier and Jean-Louis Funck-Brentano (Fig. 1). Consistent with Hamburger’s pioneering commitment to a multidisciplinary team approach to clinical investigation, collaborative relationships were soon established with Renée Habib, Nicole Hinglais, Jean Berger, Georges Mathé, Hyacinthe de Montera, Pierre Galle, Jean Dausset, J.F. Bach, Paul Michielsen, and others of equal importance [3]. The contributions of this group of investigators, led or influenced by Hamburger,

became so legion that they eventually touched upon the entire fabric of modern nephrology. To name but a few: one of the first successful transplants between identical twins; early cadaveric transplantation utilizing immunosuppression; descriptions of acute but reversible allograft rejection and recurrent glomerulonephritis in the graft; major contributions to the morphological classification of glomerulonephritis and its clinical manifestations (including the first descriptions of IgA nephropathy, “dense deposit” disease, and others); and the application of modern immunologic techniques and thought to furtherance of our insights into tissue histocompatibility and immunologic mechanisms in both allograft rejection and primary parenchymal kidney diseases.

Today’s nephrologist may not fully appreciate the impact of Jean Hamburger on the development of nephrology as a new and distinct clinical specialty. Facilitated by the advent of acute and chronic dialysis and successful transplantation, he separated nephrology from the umbrella of general internal medicine in Europe and, at least in part by influence and example, from cardiovascular disease in the United States. A visionary, he was described by his close friend, John Merrill, as a “*renaissance Man. . . a scientist skilled in several fields of medicine, a teacher, an academician, an administrator, an essayist, a philosopher, and a poet*” [3]. Hamburger perceived that studies of renal function and structure in health and disease provided a point of common and natural interaction between clinicians and scientists from several disciplines, thus leading to an increasingly broad-based team approach to research and treatment. He foresaw the impact of all of these events on the eventual need for

national policies for the management of end-stage kidney disease. Lastly, he recognized that there was a need for an international forum to consider the nature and interplay between the scientific, clinical and technical advances then known, and others yet to come. Despite Hamburger's growing influence in France and Europe, it is interesting to note how few Americans are remembered as visitors to his service during the mid-1950s, mainly John Merrill, Neal Bricker and Stanley Bradley. Later, of course, there were many others.

As early as the mid-1950s the concept of holding an international meeting and creating a new international society was discussed repeatedly within the small core of the Hamburger group [4]. Small national societies of relevance to kidney disease were emerging slowly in Europe, for example, the Société de Pathologie Renale in 1948–49 (the predecessor of the Société de Néphrologie which formed in 1958–59), the Renal Association in 1950, the Scandinavian Society for Kidney Research in the late 1950s (but which never really met [5]), and the Società Italiana di Nefrologia in 1957 (the first European Society to incorporate the word “nephrology” in its title). With the possible exception of the founding of the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs in 1955, there was no comparable organizational movement underway in the United States. Programs (and politics) of relevance to the kidney were resident mainly within the Nephrosis Foundation or the Renal Section of the Council on Circulation of the American Heart Association during the late 1950s and early 1960s (a fact that can trace its historical origin to the close association of Homer Smith with both the New York and American Heart Associations and the field of cardiology). American clinical scientists were committed fully to support of the prestigious annual meetings of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, the American Federation for Clinical Research, and the Federated Societies for Experimental Biology. Beyond the issues of national societies, international travel and communication were, of course, far more restricted than today and there were *no* regular international meetings that focused exclusively on the kidneys in either health or disease.

Early on, Hamburger brought his concept of an international meeting or congress to his good friend, Dr. Jean Cottet. Hamburger and Cottet had been residents in the same unit in 1933 and Cottet had helped Hamburger in Paris during the German occupation. Cottet was an outstanding physician who practiced in the lakeside spa of Evian-les-Bains during the summer months [1]. He lived in Paris during the remainder of the year where he served as a consultant to a prominent pharmaceutical company. In Evian, he was the physician to the affluent and socially prominent “tourists” who visited the spa, and he was extraordinarily influential locally. It was

Cottet who suggested to Hamburger that he should present his proposal for an international congress to Mr. Frédéric Cruze, who was then the President of the Société des Eaux d'Evian located on the south (French) shore of Lake Geneva. In the winter of 1956–57, at a dinner in Cottet's home on the rue Saint Dominique in Paris, Hamburger, Cottet, and Richet were successful in obtaining extraordinarily generous financial and managerial support from Cruze for the organization of a Congress in Geneva and Evian-les-Bains on September 3–5, 1959 [1]. Unfortunately, later the Congress had to be postponed until September 1–3, 1960, because of a 1958 fire that destroyed the top floor of the most desirable meeting place in Evian, the Hotel Royal [6].

Hamburger held a special and important invitational meeting on July 7, 1957 [1, 4]. Its political purpose was to secure broader European support for the proposed Congress. There is no known record of this meeting or a reliable list of all of those who attended. However, in addition to Hamburger, Cottet and Richet, those who are remembered as participants at this informal meeting were Professor René S. Mach, who was chair of a medical unit at the University of Geneva and a personal friend of Hamburger; Claus Brun from Copenhagen; Luigi Migone from Parma; E. Malizia from Rome; A.M. Joekes from London; H. Sarre from Freiburg; and, possibly, S.E. Bradley from New York City as the only representative from the United States. With the possible exception of Joekes [7], none were official representatives of a society; they simply represented a sampling of Hamburger's friends and colleagues [6]. Although legitimate reservations about the need for an international meeting were expressed by some, moral support for the concept of holding such a congress was nevertheless secured. Plans for the congress developed steadily during additional meetings of the provisional Organizing Committee, some of which were also held in Cottet's apartment. Joekes remembers that these few meetings were always accompanied by “*wonderful lunches*” [8]. He also remembers a concern that the Congress might be used to promote Evian water prominently, and that he would have had to withdraw if such was the case [8]. Fortunately, from the beginning, Mr. Cruze honored the desire for a scientific meeting of high quality without commercial overtones.

At least two requests for program changes were made by the Renal Association [7]. The delay occasioned by the 1958 hotel fire provided time for their incorporation [6]. It was agreed that the first day of the Congress (September 1) would be held in the Auditorium of the University of Geneva, Cours des Bastions, under the Swiss patronage of Professor Mach, thereby lending an aura of “internationality” to the meeting, and that the second day and one-half of meetings would be held on September 2 across Lake Geneva in the Salle des Fêtes



Fig. 2. Participants in the First International Congress of Nephrology, Geneva/Evian, 1960. (Courtesy of Prof. J.M. Suc and Dr. Ton That, Department of Nephrology, C.H.U. Rangueil, Toulouse, France)

(Palais des Congrès) in the town of Evian-les-Bains, France. Transportation would be provided from Geneva's Port du Jardin Anglais to Evian across Lake Geneva by the Compagnie des Eaux d'Evian in the form of a paddle-wheeled excursion steamer [9]. Refreshments would be served on board. Hamburger and Mach would serve, respectively, as President and Vice President of the Congress, and Cottet and Richet would act as Co-General Secretaries. It was tacitly understood that laying the foundation for the creation of an international society would be one of the goals of the Congress.

THE FIRST CONGRESS

Officially, this first International Congress of Nephrology was promoted as having been organized by La Société de Néphrologie, the Renal Association, The Scandinavian Society for Kidney Research, Società Italiana di Nefrologia, and the American Society of Clinical Investigation [10]. In actual fact, however, the overwhelming share of organizational responsibility was borne by Hamburger and his associates in Paris and Geneva. It was decided that total attendance would be limited to no more than 400 "nephrologists," that attendance would be by invitation only, and that the Congress would invite 20 additional and distinguished "guests-of-honor" whose full expenses (including travel) would be paid (Fig. 2). All others would be asked to pay a small fee of FF 200 (US \$40) in return for the provision of all meals and lodging [10]. The fee for spouses was only 140 FF (US \$28 [10]). Actually, the assemblage of the invitation list was less difficult than one might imagine, given the much

smaller size of both the research and clinical communities and the relevant bibliography of the time. The program included a day of renal physiology in Geneva, followed next in Evian by a half-day on acute renal failure, a half-day of free communications, including three symposia, and a short session on recent advances on the third day. There was no continuing education program or commercial exhibits. The two official languages were French and English and simultaneous translation was provided during the plenary sessions. The Proceedings of the Congress were edited by G. Richet and published by the Swiss publishing house of S. Karger. An evening at the Casino of Evian and a banquet at the Hotel Royal were planned for the evenings of September 2nd and 3rd, respectively.

A glance through the Proceedings of this first Congress is interesting [4], as its content included papers on the description of the ultrastructure of glomerular mesangial cells; the current state of renal micropuncture; mechanisms of the renal excretion of ions and water; studies or descriptions of renal tubular acidosis, phenacetin-induced nephropathy, and endemic Balkan nephritis; a review of the first three patients treated by chronic dialysis; alterations of renal blood flow in acute renal failure; kidney transplantation between nonidentical twins; and more. The Proceedings of the Congress, 730 pages in length, even included a copy of the first wedding announcement of a young woman who had undergone recent renal transplantation [1].

Closure of the scientific sessions was followed by a gala dinner at the Hotel Royal and a first viewing of yet another Hamburger contribution, one that was destined

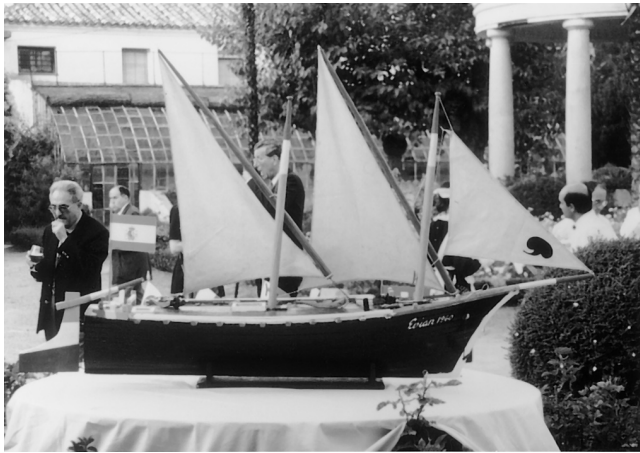


Fig. 3. The ISN sailing ship, “Nephrologie,” first displayed at the Geneva/Evian Congress and at almost all subsequent Congresses. Here photographed at the time of the 1995 Madrid Congress in the forecourt of the Castillo de Viñuelas outside of Madrid, July, 1995. G. Boner (Israel) is on the far left; K. Thureau (Germany), is visible between the sails. (Personal files of R.R. Robinson)

to become embedded in the future historical traditions of the Society. Hamburger had acquired a large model of a sailing ship and arranged to have the word “nephrology” written on its sails in several languages [1]. The national flags of the countries represented at the Congress adorned the shrouds and masts. The ship was resident as the centerpiece in the middle of the banquet hall, a fitting symbol of the internationality of science and medicine as both she and nephrology began their voyages around the world. Despite the model’s fragility and a resultant need for occasional repairs, the same sailing ship has survived several international shipments so that she could grace almost every international Congress in a prominent location (Fig. 3). Her frequent triennial or biennial journeys around the world sometimes required a bit of investigation in order to ascertain her exact position or location, but she was never lost for long. She now resides grandly in the Society’s archives in Amsterdam.

“Coinage” of the term “nephrologie” for use in the title of this first “International Congress of Nephrology” has been attributed to Hamburger. Actually, use of the radical “nephro” had been common in French medicine since 1800 and the word “nephrologie” appears in several 19th century French dictionaries. It appears in Raige-Delorme (1863) with its present meaning, and again in Dunglison’s American Dictionary (1840) and in Littré and Robin (1876; where its translation into English, German, Italian and Spanish was also included), as well as in the famous Dictionnaire de Langue Française by Littré, 6 volumes in quarto (1866) [1]. It seems certain that Hamburger knew of the word’s existence and perhaps extracted it for use from the Littré dictionary, for it is

that great work that stands as the reference *par excellence* for academic endeavor [1]. Whatever the truth, it is at least certain that Jean Hamburger identified and gave new life to an older word, one that now stands as the definitive descriptor of a new medical specialty. It is of passing interest to note that his own national society, the Société de Pathologie Rénale, changed its name to the La Société de Néphrologie in 1959, some 20 months prior to the Evian Congress, and that it was Hamburger who served as the first President under the new name.

THE FOUNDING ASSEMBLY

By the end of the second day in Evian, it was obvious to all that the scientific meeting had been a great success. Many, whether a basic scientist or clinician, felt that they had now been admitted to a new and international community, Nephrology. Foremost at issue was the question of what lay in the future.

Accordingly, on September 2, 1960, at the end of the second day of the Congress, an important meeting was organized by Hamburger at the Hotel Royal. Those present included: Stanley E. Bradley (New York City), Jan Brod (Prague), Claus Brun (Copenhagen), Jacob de Graeff (Leiden), Jean Hamburger (Paris), A.M. Joekes (London), B. Josephson (Stockholm), Paul P. Lambert (Brussels), Rene S. Mach (Geneva), John P. Merrill (Boston), Luigi Migone (Parma), G. Monasterio (Pisa), I. Nussenzweig (São Paulo), Kenzo Oshima (Tokyo), F. Reubi (Bern), Gabriel Richet (Paris), J. Roguski (Poznan), H. Sarre (Freiburg), and Hugh E. de Wardener (London) [11, 12].

Led by Hamburger, a number of issues were discussed, mainly in French. Oshima remembers that the internationality of the group was reflected by the fact that two of the participants spoke no English and that he spoke no French [13]! The first and foremost issue for discussion was whether or not an International Society of Nephrology should be founded. Some of the participants were reluctant initially, a legitimate point of view because they (perhaps represented by Bradley, Brun, de Graeff, Joekes and Oshima) tended to feel that there were enough societies already. They believed that a “Coordinating Committee” would serve the purpose just as well as a new society. Further, such a Committee could arrange for regular Congresses at various sites without imposing the burden of a society and its need for a more formal form of governance. Still another person proposed that nephrology might be best grafted onto an existent and well-established national society, such as the American Society of Physiology or the American Society for Clinical Investigation. This suggestion was felt to be inconsistent with the intended multidisciplinary nature of the proposed society, the need for internationality, and the desired coexistence of clinical and scientific

interests, which were definitive requirements accepted by all.

Sensing that there were a few bona fide reservations about the establishment of a new society, Hamburger left that question unanswered and shifted the discussion to a consideration of whether or not there should be a follow-up Congress after a suitable period of time. Copenhagen, Freiburg, Paris, Evian and Prague were mentioned as possible venues [13]. Jan Brod, who had trained with Homer Smith, occupied an important position alongside the Czechoslovakian government at that time and he was exceedingly anxious to hold the next Congress in Prague. His proposal was endorsed vigorously by John Merrill who was interested and willing to travel behind the Iron Curtain [1]. Merrill's international "spirit" was well known to Europeans. It was then agreed that a second Congress would be held in Prague in 1963 and that Jan Brod would serve as its President, contingent upon final approval by the Czech authorities.

Hamburger then returned to the undecided question of whether or not an international society should be established. He personally felt strongly that the next Congress should be reinforced and supported by a sponsoring society. Such was essential in his view and, after extended discussion, it was his view that prevailed. An International Society of Nephrology would be established.

The discussion then turned to three major organizational issues [4]: (1) the mission and purpose of the new Society; (2) eligibility requirements for membership; and (3) organizational (governance) structure. There was full support for a second Congress, and the sponsorship of such meetings was held to be central to the future society's purpose and mission. Every effort would be made to attract participants of the highest quality from a multidisciplinary array of differing backgrounds, and thereby promote internationality by facilitating the need for an exchange of nephrologically relevant information among nations. Other suggestions as to possible programs included the need for an international directory of "nephrologists" and the possible sponsorship of a new journal. The latter idea was felt to reflect a distant dream but it was not rejected outright; it was merely laid aside for the time being.

The discussion of possible criteria for membership led to a consideration of thornier issues, at least politically. For example, should the membership be composed of a confederation of national societies? Unfortunately, many countries had no society at the time so this approach was not felt to be feasible. Alternatively, should the membership be composed of individual members? If so, how was their eligibility to be established? By what criteria and via what process? These important questions did not lend themselves to easy resolution so they were left unresolved at this first meeting. However, at least in a general sense, it was felt that national societies should

play a definite but undefined role in the presentation of candidates for admission into membership, thereby assuming responsibility for their qualifications. Individual membership would be available to nephrologists from countries without a national society by criteria yet to be established. Later, actual or attempted implementation of this approach would prove to be incredibly complicated and it gave rise to much future confusion. It would prove to be a limiting factor in the overall development of the Society, certainly in the beginning. Insofar as we have been able to tell, none of the participants in this meeting have any recollection of discussing the possibility of a more unrestricted or "open" admission to membership, much along that enjoyed today by the ISN and many national societies. In part, this can be attributed to Hamburger's personal commitment to an "invited" or "qualified" membership, an elitist approach that would bring only those with the best credentials to the Congresses.

Less time was devoted to a consideration of organizational structure and governance. No exact suggestions were made. It was felt that further study was needed before any final conclusion could be reached. All agreed that Jean Hamburger should take the lead and that he and his associates should continue to think on this important issue.

In summary, at this first meeting it was concluded that an International Society of Nephrology should be established and that Jean Hamburger would be appointed as its Founder and first President [4]. Those in attendance agreed to serve as an ad hoc Executive or Provisional Organizing Committee, 20 persons overall [12]; Jean-Louis Funck-Brentano was appointed as the Secretary-General. A second Congress would be held in Prague in 1963 and Jan Brod would serve as its President, contingent upon the receipt of final approval from the Czechoslovakian authorities. The future feasibility of establishing a new journal would receive further consideration [4].

In retrospect, the success of this first Congress was due in no small part to its timing. It was held as the nephrological world stood on the threshold of witnessing incredibly exciting advances in many relevant areas, including chronic dialysis, renal transplantation, and the development of new insights into renal function in health and disease. There were no truly competitive national or international meetings that were devoted exclusively to nephrology. Further, the international community was receptive to any program that would strengthen its interrelationships. Hamburger deserves great credit for his recognition of the need and the time. The excitement surrounding an emerging specialty had been placed on center-stage for all to see.

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1960–1963

It was during this critical period that Jean Hamburger, Jean-Louis Funck-Brentano and the Provisional Organizing Committee first created a written Constitution for the new Society. This difficult task was actually led by Funck-Brentano, one that he carried out rapidly and efficiently. A proposed draft was first circulated during the autumn of 1960 [14]; revised versions were circulated among the membership of the Organizing Committee and often amended in response to the comments and suggestions of those who replied. Some among the membership failed to reply, perhaps reflecting less than optimal interest in the project. Certainly, there were many differences of opinion within the Organizing Committee and those sections of the first Constitution that are most ambiguous are reflective of those differences (such as the eligibility requirements for membership). The lack of clear definition of the criteria for membership created a future handicap that would plague the development of the Society for some time to come.

Despite these and other obstacles, President Hamburger finally succeeded in creating a reasonably acceptable draft of a Constitution and By-Laws. Of necessity, the Constitution was prepared without the final benefit of optimal and broad-based discussion. In the end, such was probably for the best given the mixed views of so many on the Organizing Committee. Otherwise, there might have been no Constitution at all. It was only through the personal commitment, persistence, and interest of Hamburger and Funck-Brentano that a final draft of a proposed Constitution was prepared. This version of the Constitution of the “Société Internationale de Néphrologie” was then registered as an “Association Étrangère” at the “Préfecture of Police” in Paris, and the establishment of the Society was decreed according to French law [4]. A brief but official announcement of its registration was published in the “Journal Officiel de la République Française,” 94^{eme} année, no. 109, 7–8 Mai 1962, p. 4,616 [4]. After later consideration in Prague, the full text of the Constitution was published in both English and French in *Nephron* [15]. An essential step in laying the foundation for a new Society had now been completed.

Meanwhile, in Paris, a continuing effort focused on two important tasks: (1) plans and preparations for the Congress in Prague, and (2) a consideration of the feasibility of establishing a new journal. Funck-Brentano, as the ad hoc Secretary-General, worked closely with Jan Brod in preparation for the Prague Congress. Continuing support and consultation were necessary because there were many in Europe, and even more in the United States, who continued to question the need for a Society whose only visible activity was the organization of a meeting. Others felt that there was a sufficient number

of societies and journals already in place, a view that was held strongly by most Americans at that time. The future of the Society and its Congresses was still very much in doubt.

Nevertheless, then and today Prague is one of Europe's most attractive cities and Jan Brod was an old and respected friend of many European and American colleagues. Accordingly, with the aid of small financial contributions from a few pharmaceutical companies, the nascent Society's provisional Treasurer (L. Migone) and Funck-Brentano succeeded in providing Brod with steady moral support and assistance throughout the 1960–63 period, despite the fact that their authority was ad hoc and unclear. Some were concerned that the application form for attendance indicated that the meeting was being organized by the Czechoslovakian Society rather than the “international committee” for fear it would establish a precedent that might preclude future internationality [16]. Of course, much of this circumstance derived from the nascent Society's almost total lack of financial responsibility for the meeting. Nevertheless, local efforts were complemented enormously by a planning meeting of the combined Local Organizing Committee and European members of the Provisional Organizing Committee. Disagreements were few because all were convinced of the need to adopt and support a multidisciplinary and international approach to the meeting.

Of equal importance during this interim period were discussions with respect to launching a new journal under the aegis of the new Society. Hamburger and Funck-Brentano strongly believed that the emerging field of nephrology would prosper most if those involved in kidney-relevant research could be brought together in an International Society of Nephrology, and that such a Society should have its own professional journal. The issue had been raised and debated warmly at the Evian meeting. Many were reluctant or even opposed, mainly because they hesitated to add one more journal to an already long list, or because of strong attachment to existent national journals. Nevertheless, despite considerable reluctance and reservation on the part of many, it had been agreed in Evian that the issue should be examined but that a final decision would be deferred until the meeting in Prague.

Accordingly, even before the first draft of the Constitution had been written, Hamburger and Funck-Brentano set about laying the groundwork for the establishment of a new journal. Preliminary discussions were held with the Swiss publisher, S. Karger, which had published the Proceedings of the Evian Congress. The result of these early discussions was inconclusive, largely because the emerging specialty was new, the nature and future of the nascent Society was unknown, its organizational structure was ad hoc, and the Provisional Organizing Committee had no funds. In short, Hamburger and

Funck-Brentano had little to offer to a prospective publisher and, in retrospect, it is remarkable that a journal was launched at all. A progress note on the status of their discussions with S. Karger was circulated to the members of the Provisional Organizing Committee (and perhaps to others, as well) by Funck-Brentano in May 1962 [4]. Again, the response to the idea of yet another journal was mixed and sometimes emotional. The dossier on *Nephron* in the ISN Archives is replete with such correspondence [4]. In general, as emphasized by de Wardener and Richet in their article on the births of both *Nephron* and *Kidney International* [17], it was the Japanese and the Americans who were most opposed (with the notable exception of John Merrill). As de Wardener and Richet pointed out, even the emerging European Societies of Nephrology were “lukewarm” to the idea [17]. The arguments in opposition were unchanged: there was no need because there were too many journals already and strong commitments to existent and prestigious national journals (such as *The Journal of Clinical Investigation* and *The American Journal of Physiology* in the United States) would simply preclude a new journal’s ability to attract submissions of high quality. It was only through the commitment and persistence of Hamburger and Funck-Brentano that the outline of a proposed plan for a new journal was finalized in Prague in April 1963, during a preparatory meeting in advance of the Prague Congress. The title “*Nephron*” was suggested by Richet as one that was suitably “international” and understood by all. His suggestion was supported by de Wardener and incorporated into the plan to be presented to the Executive Committee during the Prague Congress.

In retrospect, given today’s plethora of national, regional, and international nephrological societies, journals, and meetings, it is remarkable how few researchers in the early 1960s shared Hamburger’s vision for a new specialty, a new Society, a new journal, and their futures. Further, those who were close to him during those early years suspect today that even he would be surprised by the current depth and breadth of the specialty whose birth he envisioned so clearly and labored so hard to facilitate.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SEPTEMBER 26–30, 1963

The second International Congress proved to be just as successful as the first. Its duration was longer (five days) and attendance had more than doubled. Most attendees felt that President Brod and his close associate from the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in Prague, Secretary-General J. Jirka, ran the meeting efficiently and well. The Congress took place in the so-called “Represen-

tation House” of Prague where the Smetana concert hall was available for plenary sessions [18]. The official languages were English, French and Russian with simultaneous translation [19]. Predictably, in that era, there were some who complained of a feeling of oppression and noted the limitations on travel (and gasoline) behind the Iron Curtain, mainly those from Western countries outside of Europe. In contrast, many Europeans welcomed the opportunity to visit Prague and found the city beautiful and the ambience reasonably comfortable.

The Prague Congress was organized and financed differently than had been the case at Evian. First, initial funding for the meeting was provided by the Czechoslovakian authorities, supported additionally by the required payment of a registration fee from individual participants. Second, attendance was completely open rather than by invitation only. Anyone could come; one only had to pay the fee. A gratifying growth in attendance offered impressive testimony to the fact that nephrology was coming of age, that it was an increasingly popular field, and that it was no longer the sole province of a smaller and more elitist group of researchers. Enthusiastic expressions of interest in the new Society were heard increasingly during casual conversations among the attendees.

All agreed that the success of the Congress was due principally to the leadership of Jan Brod. Indeed, there were those who felt initially that he was taking a huge chance when he proposed holding the Congress in Prague. For one thing, an offer of the Prague venue was made and accepted without having yet secured the necessary approval of the Czechoslovakian authorities. Others worried that a meeting behind the Iron Curtain might be associated with subtle attempts to control the free exchange of scientific information, or limit the attendance of scientists from certain countries. Despite such concerns, Brod’s contacts, reputation, and commitment were such that he was able to prevail on almost all counts.

Much of Brod’s enthusiasm for the Society and its second Congress derived from the fact that he shared Hamburger’s view of the future of nephrology as an emerging and potentially important medical specialty. In his Presidential address to the Congress, Brod emphasized the “importance of the diseases falling under the scope of nephrology” and spoke of his pride in serving as the President of “the first [Congress] to be held under the auspices of the ISN” [4]. His view of the emerging field was clear: “It [nephrology] extends from the macro-problems at the patient’s bed to the micro-problem of Angstrom dimensions at the cell membrane. . . . nephrology, although of recent date, stands in danger of a further subdivision, which. . . . might risk the loss of breadth of the scientific approach to numerous unsolved problems of renal physiology and clinical medicine” [4]. Such statements echoed and amplified Hamburger’s earlier belief

in the desirability of a multidisciplinary approach to research, and a society which would accommodate those from divergent fields whose interests focused on common problems.

The Prague Congress was attended by 899 delegates from 41 countries, including 169 (19%) from the United States, 155 from Czechoslovakia (17%), 104 from France (12%), 90 from the United Kingdom (10%), and 73 from the Federal Republic of Germany (8%) [4]. Five hundred and twenty abstracts were submitted and 217 (41.7%) were selected for presentation. Discussions of five main topics prevailed on the Congress program: renal physiology; chronic dialysis and transplantation; renal disease in pregnancy; chronic pyelonephritis; and renal hypertension. The Proceedings of the Congress (835 pages, edited by J. Vostal and G. Richet) and the Abstracts were published by *Excerpta Medica*.

Many participants in this second Congress remember that two other circumstances or events were much discussed during the meeting: first, was the possible existence of a new natriuretic factor(s) not yet identified; second, were the conclusions of an international scientific symposium on aldosterone that was held in Prague just prior to the ISN Congress under the sponsorship of the Czechoslovakian Institute of Medical Sciences. The latter meeting can perhaps be regarded as the first “satellite” meeting to surround an ISN Congress, one that foretold the ability of the Congresses to serve as a magnet for satellite meetings on more sharply focused interests.

Plans for the continuing development of the Society and its programs were discussed fully in Prague during a meeting of the Provisional Organizing Committee, now acting as an overly large Executive Committee of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN). The first item of business surrounded the review and approval of the proposed Constitution. Several modest alterations were made to Article IV, Section 3 and Article V, Section 3, and an approved and final version was later re-registered (on September 23, 1964) with the Préfecture of Police in Paris [4]. The ISN Archives include the “recipisse” (receipt) for the registration of these changes in the Constitution.

Finally, a new Society had been established and its Constitution was in place! Unfortunately, this first Constitution included a few incredibly cumbersome or confusing paragraphs that were destined to delay the development of the Society for years. First, membership would be of two types: (a) either as the “whole” or a “more restricted number” of the membership of a national society (of which there were but a few then in existence); (b) or as an “individual”. . . . “who has made significant contributions”. . . . “where no national society exists” [15]. In both instances, the qualifications for individual membership were not defined and the application process was intolerably lengthy and complex, eventually

requiring a vote of approval by a House of Delegates, which was to meet no more often than every three years! The establishment of these eligibility requirements reflected Hamburger’s strong view that membership should be restricted to those who met a certain standard that had yet to be defined. Neither of these avenues to membership were ever implemented fully or uniformly. Second, the all-important final governing body would be provided by a House of Delegates which at first was limited to the appointed members of the first Executive or Provisional Organizing Committee (20 persons overall). The criteria for the election of subsequent members of the House were not specified, but left to the discretion of the initial “House.” Again, this process afforded maximum maneuverability by a relatively small group at the outset, but it was remarkably undemocratic (an appellation that also would plague the society for years to come). Third, the new Constitution required the appointment of a Nominating Committee from a constituency whose membership in the Society was often unclear. This Committee was asked to submit an unspecified number of nominees for each office to the Executive Committee where the list could again be modified before submission to the House of Delegates (or, later, the General Assembly) for a final vote. It would be years before this process went smoothly, in part because of the difficulty in establishing whether or not an individual was actually a dues-paying member of the Society and therefore eligible for office.

The next item of business concerned the possible establishment of a new journal. The response was again mixed. Some were reluctant but permissive. Others were actively supportive, believing that the discipline was showing signs of growth sufficient to support a new journal. Still others were opposed. The results of Funck-Brentano’s earlier discussions with S. Karger were presented, and their most likely final outcome was pointed out. In the end, President Hamburger’s plan for a new journal entitled *Nephron* was endorsed, albeit with some reluctance. Once voted, it was hoped that *Nephron* could appear as soon as possible. The future birth of *Nephron* was then announced officially to all in attendance at the Prague meeting. Later, George E. Schreiner, Washington, D.C., whose official letter of acceptance was dated April 10, 1964 [20], and Gabriel Richet, Paris, were recruited and appointed as Co-Editors-in-Chief. Jean Dormont, Paris, was made the Associate Editor. Dormont would play an increasingly important role in the operation of the Paris office.

The governance of the fledgling Society was now sufficiently clear to effect the election (by the Provisional Organizing Committee, now acting as the Executive Committee) of new officers and councilors for the next triennium (1963–66) and vote the venue for the 1966 Congress. Most felt that it would be important politically

for the Society to hold its next Congress in the United States. Such a move was felt to be essential for the development of a truly international membership because the Society was more European than international in 1963. It was agreed accordingly that the Third Congress would be held in Washington, D.C. in 1966. An invitation was extended to the American Heart Association (AHA) to act as the local sponsor, one that was accepted promptly since John Merrill was then serving as Chairman of the Renal Section of the AHA Council on Circulation. Robert W. Berliner would later be asked to serve as President of the Congress, and George E. Schreiner would be recruited as its Secretary-General.

Next was the establishment of nominal annual dues for members (US \$2) and the election of Officers for the new Society: Hamburger would serve on the Executive Committee as Past-President; Claus Brun (Copenhagen) would be the new President; John P. Merrill (Boston) would serve as President-Elect; Priscilla Kincaid-Smith (Melbourne), Herman Villarreal (Mexico, D.F.), and Neal S. Bricker (St. Louis) would serve as first, second, and third Vice-Presidents, respectively; Councilors would include J. Brod (Prague), R.F. Pitts (New York), H. Wirz (Basel), J. deGraeff (Leiden), B. Josephson (Stockholm), P.P. Lambert (Brussels), I. Nussenzweig (Sao Paulo), K. Oshima (Tokyo), J. Roguski (Poznan), and H. Sarre (Freiburg). Richet and Schreiner would serve as Co-Editors of *Nephron*. Unfortunately, as was so often the case during the first 10 to 15 years of the Society's existence, there are no known minutes of these important first meetings of the Executive Committee in Prague. One must rely on Funck-Brentano's remembrances of voted decisions as outlined summarily by him many months after the fact [4].

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1963–1966

Three events highlighted this inter-Congress period: (a) the appearance of the first issue of *Nephron*; (b) publication of the first International Directory of Nephrologists; and (c) assemblage of the first official ISN Nominating Committee in advance of the next Congress as required by the new Constitution.

Most important of all was the publication of *Nephron*. Its birth (and that of *Kidney International*) has been described fully by de Wardener and Richet [17]. Following difficult and protracted negotiations with S. Karger, a contract was said to have been signed several months after the appearance of the journal's first issues in 1964. Unfortunately, a copy of this first contract has not been found, either in the archives of the ISN, or interestingly, in the files of S. Karger [4, 17]. Few were happy with its terms. Arguably, the title *Nephron* would belong to S. Karger instead of to the Society. The journal would appear six times per year. Initially, as outlined in the "Infor-

mation for Subscribers" in each issue, "*the yearly subscription rate is sFr 56 or US \$13.50 (postage included). Members of the ISN pay an annual fee of US \$10 which includes a subscription to Nephron. Application forms for membership can be obtained from the publisher. . .*" It is assumed but unproven that official membership lists were to be created or deposited with the Secretary-General. A terse solicitation memorandum from Funck-Brentano to unknown "colleagues" is a model of understatement and inadequate representation of the Society and its journal [21]. Presumably, dues would be forwarded to the Treasurer (perhaps after the publisher had recouped the journal's initial start-up costs). It is also unclear just how an individual established that he or she was, in fact, an ISN member in the event that the subscriber wished to take advantage of the reduced dues and subscription fee of US \$10. Certainly, this intolerably complex and confusing arrangement effectively established S. Karger as the *de facto* Treasurer of the Society.

President Brun was especially displeased with the fact that the name *Nephron* would not belong clearly to the ISN. On January 21, 1964, in a delayed response to an earlier letter from Funck-Brentano dated October 15, 1963, he wondered "*if Karger has outsmarted the Society?*" [22]. Further, he stated that he did not feel "*sufficiently informed to sign anything before the question about ownership rights has been cleared up.*" Funck-Brentano replied promptly on January 29, 1964, stating that "*it is difficult to be the owner of something without a penny*" and expressed his hope that the ISN would eventually be "*rich enough to be the only owner of the Journal*" [23]. It seemed likely that Karger would control the title of *Nephron*.

The new journal was to be burdened further by limited financial resources and two relatively coequal Editorial Offices separated by a very large ocean and absent today's ease of communication, an office in France and one in the United States. Nevertheless, the "*bulk of the work*" was to be "*carried out in Paris by Jean Dormont under Richet's supervision*" [17]. The first of six bi-monthly issues per year appeared in 1964 and included a short "Introduction" by Claus Brun [24]. In it he expressed the hope that *Nephron* would serve as a communication link "*between nephrologists in all countries,*" and that it would grow "*to be a two-way bridge between the basic sciences and medicine on which a steady stream of information*" would travel. His preface, in clear, terse language succeeded in capturing the core mission and spirit of the Society's journals for years to come.

Nephron struggled to survive during its brief existence prior to the Washington, D.C. Congress in 1966. It was not accepted by most researchers in the United States, most of whom continued to maintain their long-standing commitment to national journals that were felt to be more prestigious and of higher quality. Even though John

Merrill and his group in Boston offered their papers and enthusiastic support to *Nephron*, the new journal's principal base of support was European. Nevertheless, it slowly began to receive some very good papers; the Paris office reported that the annual number of submissions had risen to 70 by the end of 1966 [25] and total circulation had risen to 1383 part of the way through 1966 [26].

The creation of *Nephron* by a Society with uncertain membership and no financial resources was something of a gamble. Funck-Brentano bore the weight of most of the negotiations, both within and outside of the Executive Committee and often without clear direction from the Society's leadership. The contract with S. Karger was such that the Society had no more than minimal influence on the journal's management, so it is not surprising that a number of minor disagreements began to appear prior to the Washington, D.C. Congress. Most of them derived from Karger's built-in conflict of interest as publisher and treasurer, a circumstance that was complicated further by the lack of a clear-cut policy concerning criteria for membership. It was this confused state of affairs that would later contribute to a change of publishers and the creation of *Kidney International*.

Meanwhile, Funck-Brentano pursued the creation of a worldwide directory of nephrologists. He not only assembled a list of names but also raised the necessary funds for its publication by S. Karger. He so informed President Brun in a letter dated April 22, 1966 in which he sought his agreement as to the title of the Directory and asked him to cosign its Preface [27]. Brun agreed to the proposed title (*International Directory of Nephrologists* in both English and French), but worried about the undecided frequency of future publication and the resultant magnitude of continuing expense [28]. Reflective of his persistent discomfort with the business arrangements for *Nephron*, he offered his view that hospital libraries would subscribe to the journal reluctantly because its distribution was so closely linked to membership in the Society. He worried that the coupling of dues and subscription would be an easy way to collect money for the Society but that the distribution of the journal would suffer unduly as a result [28]. Despite Brun's comment on coupling, most believe that dues and subscription were coupled or uncoupled as a matter of choice at that time, and that one did not have to subscribe to the journal in order to be a member of the Society. Unfortunately, if so, there is no record of those who elected to pay only the modest sum of US \$2 for dues alone, or even if such amounts were ever paid. Nevertheless, Brun's remark is reflective of the confusion that then surrounded the process for securing individual memberships. To complicate matters even further, there were many in the United States (which still had no national society due, in part, to rivalries between the National

Nephrosis Foundation, the emerging National Kidney Foundation, and the American Heart Association) who equated membership with a straightforward subscription to *Nephron* for US \$13.50, albeit incorrectly as emphasized by the Constitution.

Funck-Brentano's additional duties during this interim period included the appointment of a first Nominating Committee. Unfortunately, the membership roster for this first Nominating Committee has not been found. Later, he expressed to John Merrill (the incoming ISN President) his hope that Merrill would be able to hold a first meeting of the "general assembly" in Washington, D.C. so that a proper election could be held [29].

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, WASHINGTON, D.C., USA, SEPTEMBER 25–30, 1966

Robert W. Berliner, who was then Director of the Kidney and Electrolyte Laboratory of the National Heart Institute of the National Institutes of Health, was President of the Congress; George E. Schreiner of Georgetown University served as Secretary-General; John P. Merrill was Chair of an Organizing Committee whose additional members included 13 American nephrologists (S.E. Bradley, H. Barnett, E.L. Becker, R.W. Berliner, D.P. Earle, C.R. Kleeman, J. Metcoff, D. Oken, J.H. Peters, G.E. Schreiner, W.B. Schwartz, D.W. Seldin and L.G. Welt). The meeting was scheduled under the general aegis of the ISN (which still had no financial resources of note) and sponsored in the United States by the Renal Section of the Council on Circulation of the American Heart Association (AHA). Additional "Co-operating Societies" were the American Federation for Clinical Research (AFCR), the American Medical Association (AMA), The American Society for Artificial Internal Organs (ASAIO), the American Urological Association (AUA), the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), and the Washington, D.C. Heart Association. The multiplicity of participating organizations again reflected the continuing rivalries between various organizations and their relative roles in representing the developing field of nephrology in the United States, including a reluctance on the part of some to acknowledge that there was even a need for a discrete new specialty. Some even worried that the National Institutes of Health would form a separate Kidney Institute and thereby threaten the location of the Laboratory for Kidney and Electrolyte Metabolism in the National Heart Institute. Others feared that competitive fund-raising by the emerging NKF would threaten the AHA and lead to a reduction in AHA grant support [30]. The foundation of the American Society of Nephrology was yet to come. Such controversies were to

complicate the organization of the Washington, D.C. Congress, a circumstance that was fortunately overcome.

Planning for the Congress proceeded full ahead under the leadership of Berliner, Schreiner and Merrill. Unfortunately, according to Schreiner, he was unable to obtain a list of attendees at either the Evian or the Prague Congress [30]. (The list of attendees at the Prague Congress is available today in the ISN Archives.) He tells an amusing story as to how and from what sources he assembled a mailing list of more than 10,000 names in order to announce the forthcoming Congress, and that a 50% response rate was obtained [30]. Partial financial support was secured from the National Heart Institute, the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, and the National Science Foundation. The advance registration fee for active membership was US \$45 (\$50 if registering at the time of the Congress); affiliate membership was US \$20, which included participation in all social events but did not permit attendance at the scientific sessions [31]. All sessions would be held at the new Washington Hilton Hotel whose construction was due to be completed just prior to the Congress. The Secretary-General signed a commitment for all 1,000 rooms (not without worry) and offered them to all participants at an unprecedented rate of US \$10 per day [30]. Successful management led to a surplus of US \$40,000 at the end of the Congress [32].

The meeting proved to be a great success. It was the first of the large meetings [33]. The official Report states that the "scientific registration" for the full week numbered 2,134 [30, 34, 35]; another source placed the overall registration at 2,755, of whom 422 were affiliate members [36]. Fifty-four countries were represented [35]. Overall, 624 abstracts were submitted and the final program included 75 invited papers and 224 free communications [30, 34]. The publication of a Proceedings was resisted initially by both Berliner and Schreiner, but for different reasons. Berliner felt that the information would be stale and Schreiner was concerned about the impact on his already over-committed work schedule [37]. It was eventually published in three volumes by S. Karger for US \$13.25 per three volume set [32]. Volume 1, *Physiology*, was edited by J.S. Handler; Volume 2, *Morphology, Immunology and Urology*, was edited by R.H. Heptinstall; and Volume 3, *Clinical Nephrology*, was edited by E.L. Becker. The publication of categorical volumes was thought to be relatively unique in nephrology at the time [30].

The Congress also adopted a relatively new program format that was utilized frequently in subsequent meetings. The day began with a state-of-the-art presentation in plenary session followed by one to three symposia (each one of which included three to four invited speakers). The morning session was followed by luncheon, additional symposia, and free communication sessions in the mid to late afternoon. Insofar as possible, each

morning's state-of-the-art lecture set the tone for related content in subsequent symposia and free communication sessions on the same day, a sequential "unfolding" of the day's content, if you will. One of four afternoons was left open for leisure or other activities. Schreiner said it well in his "Preface" to the *Proceedings*: "*The Congress served as a much needed worldwide inventory of the 'state of the art' of nephrology. . . . and the only currently available inventory of the field of nephrology as of 1966*" [34].

The large number of invited speakers offered a broad-based and thorough review or "inventory" of basic and clinical aspects of nephrology as they then existed. This approach, one that provided a valuable form of continuing education for many, was one that would be utilized (with modification from time to time) at subsequent Congresses. However, since only 36% of the submitted abstracts were included in a free communication session, there were those who felt that the presentation of original research or clinical observations was unnecessarily limited by an overly large number of presentations by invited experts. The structure of this program may have signaled the beginning of several issues that would continue to challenge numerous Program Committees in the future: (a) to what extent can a relatively infrequent meeting (triennially, in this case) truly expect to accommodate the first reporting of the results of fast-moving scientific discovery; (b) maintaining a proper balance between relevant multidisciplinary basic science and the broad base of clinical nephrology; (c) securing a proper balance between invited speakers (continuing education) and free communications (original scientific discovery); and (d) maintaining an appropriate balance between the quality of the program and simultaneous recognition of the Society's internationality through speaker and abstract selection. The emphasis on continuing education was facilitated further by the simple fact that the growing cost and eventual financial success of each early Congress was the sole responsibility of the Local Organizing Committee. Each Congress was therefore desirous of attracting as many registrants as possible from the growing population of clinical nephrologists occasioned by the advent chronic of dialysis and transplantation. Such a circumstance provided yet another force in support of a more open vis a vis an elitist membership, and justified a heavier program emphasis on continuing education.

Despite reservations on the part of some who believed there was too heavy an emphasis on the "current state of the art and science," the overall program in Washington, D.C. was thought by most to have been an outstanding success. The clinical presentations were well grounded in biological science and the program included solid discussions of many important topics, including the hemolytic-uremic syndrome, the results of immunofluorescence microscopy, advances in dialysis and transplantation, the



Fig. 4. Partial view of the head table at the banquet on September 29, 1966 during the Washington, D.C. Congress. The front row, left to right, includes C. Brun, R.W. Berliner, J.P. Merrill, G.E. Schreiner, G. Richet, E.L. Becker, and H. Villarreal. (Courtesy of R.W. Berliner)

results of serial kidney biopsy in glomerulonephritis, the use of the low protein diet in uremia, and an outstanding program on numerous aspects of the physiological regulation of renal function. Clearly, the third ISN Congress marked a turning point for nephrology in the United States. It was truly open and nonelitist, multidisciplinary, and its occurrence did much to galvanize the foundation of the American Society (which was founded in 1966 but did not hold its first meeting until 1967). In fact, the concluding sentence of the official Report states: “*As a result of the Congress, the American Society of Nephrology was formed to provide an annual forum for the cross-fertilization of disciplines as initiated by the Congress.*” [35].

This Congress also displayed an expanded social and entertainment schedule for active registrants and affiliate members. The evenings included a social mixer at the hotel following the opening ceremony and, later, a performance of the Washington National Symphony in the new hotel ballroom where everyone was treated to a superb concert of Mozart, Rameau-Motte, Barber, Wagner and Tchaikovsky [31, 36]. Other activities included a private opening of the National Gallery of Art, and a closing Reception and Banquet (with California wines, a supreme of crabmeat, broiled sirloin steak, *salade d’automne*, and other items). The banquet also presented one of the largest head tables ever assembled, a long two-tiered table accommodating upwards to 50 or more nephrologists and their spouses (Fig. 4). In addition to the banquet, a Women’s Hospitality Committee offered a number of well-planned tours each day, including a luncheon/fashion show at the Mayflower Hotel, a boat ride down the Potomac River to Mount Vernon, and

more [36]. There was no shortage of “extracurricular” opportunities.

The Congress also afforded a parallel benefit for the development of public policy in the United States. A national committee under the leadership of Carl Gottschalk had been assembled by U.S. federal authorities in advance of the Congress and asked to submit its recommendations regarding the future of long-term dialysis and the possible role of government. The influx into Washington, D.C. of numerous experts from abroad provided the Committee with an unequalled opportunity to consult with the international community on such issues, an opportunity of which it took full advantage. Representatives of different countries were asked to attend an informal ad hoc meeting in the hotel’s Presidential Suite and bring their own estimates of the number of uremic patients per 100,000 population who were eligible for chronic dialysis (given the restrictions on eligibility then in vogue). The U.S. representatives were pleased to learn that their own experience approximated the median of the international experience [37].

The authors have been able to locate only the most cursory records of the meetings of the ISN Executive Committee or other ISN assemblages during the Washington, D.C. Congress. President Brun presided over a meeting of the Executive Committee on September 28, 1966 [38]. Only G. Monasterio was absent from the original founding group. It was agreed to increase the size of the Committee from 20 to 25 members. Several of the founding group wished to resign. Accordingly, and apparently by vote of the Executive Committee alone, it was decided that the 1966–69 triennium would include

the following officers and members of the Executive Committee: C. Brun became Past President and John P. Merrill (Boston) was elected President; Hugh E. de Wardener (London) was President-Elect; Nils Alwall (Lund), George E. Schreiner (Washington, D.C.), and Neal S. Bricker (St. Louis) were elected First, Second, and Third Vice Presidents, respectively; Funck-Brentano and Migone would continue as Secretary-General and Treasurer, respectively. The final list of "Members" would include R.W. Berliner (USA), D.A.K. Black (UK), K. Ullrich (Germany), J. Traeger (France), P. Gömöri (Hungary), R. Gazmuri (Chile), J. Brod (Czech Republic), J. de Graeff (Netherlands), J. Hamburger (France), B. Josephson (Sweden), P.P. Lambert (Belgium), I. Nussenzweig (Brazil), K. Oshima (Japan), R.F. Pitts (USA), J. Roguski (Poland), H. Sarre (Germany), and H. Wirz (Switzerland) [38]. H. Villareal and N.S. Bricker were voted as Associate Secretary General and Treasurer, respectively.

Of course, we also know that Stockholm was chosen as the site of the next (1969) Congress. It is rumored that Tokyo was considered as an alternative site but that the cost of travel precluded its choice [13]. The report of the Treasurer (L. Migone, Parma) indicated that the ISN had a cash balance of only US \$2,215, and that 50% of this pitifully small amount had been contributed by the pharmaceutical industry [4]. There is no known documentation of any kind of report from S. Karger during the Congress.

In the light of future controversy over the matter, it is interesting to note that the desirability of the linkage of dues and subscription was much discussed at this meeting as well [38]. Some were in favor; others were not. A committee comprised of Merrill, Richet, Schreiner, and Funck-Brentano was appointed to examine the question further. They decided to canvas the Presidents of national societies as to their preference. However, if subscription to the journal was dissociated from dues, the national societies would then collect dues from each member and forward these amounts to the Treasurer [38]. It was then agreed that ISN dues should be increased to US \$3. It is obvious that the Committee had no view of the incredible future difficulties that would surround communication with national societies.

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1966–1969

John P. Merrill was the first ISN President from the United States. He had become a close friend of Hamburger following a visit to Paris in 1952 and was enormously supportive of the Society and its fledgling journal, *Nephron*. He was also well aware of the political cross-currents within the United States that had delayed the establishment of an American Society, and the fact that *Nephron* had failed to attract many first-class papers

from North America. He therefore set the promotion of the ISN and its journal in North America as his first presidential objective.

His first efforts were directed toward the solicitation of papers for *Nephron*. His own group set the pace, and the early issues included several papers from his unit at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. Thanks to his efforts and those of others, additional advertising pages were solicited successfully and a small amount of direct financial support for the journal was raised from corporate sponsors as well. His support was appreciated enormously by both Co-Editors and Jean Dormont, the Associate Editor in the Paris office.

John Merrill spoke many times to European colleagues on the necessity of North American support if the Society and its journal were to be ultimately successful. He worked quietly to bring this about, but eventually concluded that he was not in a position to exert the desired influence on the American nephro-political scene, which at the time was influenced primarily by those with strong physiological orientations or training. He then dedicated his efforts to doing what he could to smooth the way in America for the next ISN President. John Merrill died unexpectedly in 1984, but he is remembered still today in Europe by those of his generation as the first American nephrologist to embrace the establishment of an international nephrology society and journal with enthusiasm.

Funck-Brentano continued to cope with an unwieldy and incredibly convoluted administrative and organizational structure. The Constitution was weak, sometimes ambiguous, and often silent on important questions of process; the association with S. Karger and the publisher's *de facto* status as the Society's Treasurer were unfavorable; there were substantive differences of opinion and poor communication within an Executive Committee that was unable to meet because of lack of money; and there was no one with experience in running an international society with thousands of potential members from around the world. Controversy continued to surround the criteria for the admission of individual members as well as the role of national societies in that process. Actually, today, on a perusal of the Funck-Brentano files, it is interesting to note the substantial number of letters from candidates who requested information on membership [4]. The brief minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee in 1963 offer no hint of the volume of such inquiries and the ISN archives bear no evidence of a response. It is possible that wider knowledge of their existence might have provided an earlier stimulus for the resolution of membership issues ("elitism" vs. a more "open" form of membership) and thereby facilitated the Society's development more rapidly [4].

The authors have had great difficulty locating any reports from the publisher to the society on the status of

Nephron. A single exception is a copy of an unsigned letter from S. Karger to President Merrill dated December 22, 1966 [26]. This letter makes it clear that there was still no formal contract between Karger and the Society. Instead, a prior exchange of letters is referenced with expression of the view that “perhaps we shall over the months ahead find out whether or not we should draw up a formal contract.” It goes on to state that “it was decided that up to now the publishing house takes over the full risk and responsibility for the journal. During the first two years of existence. . . . the Society and the publisher own the title.” The title would belong to both of them for 10 additional years but either party could cancel the agreement. Thereafter the title *Nephron* would belong to the Society [26].

The letter also states that the dues and subscription rate for members was to be held constant at US \$10 through 1967, and that a total circulation of 2,000 was required for the journal to begin to make a profit. For volumes 1 and 2 (1964 and 1965), the total circulation was 1,043 and 1,213, respectively, and the total cumulative loss for both years was US \$16,104. Total circulation had risen to 1,383 (of which 650 were said to be member subscribers) for the first four issues of 1966 [26]. The remainder of the letter deals with a series of cautionary notes about any presumed relationship between possible profit and various figures for circulation, page costs, and subscription rates.

The circulation of *Nephron* continued to grow between 1966 and 1969, rising to 1,843 by the end of 1968 [17]. More than any document, the development of the journal during the first five years of life is described in a detailed account [39] that was prepared by Richet for presentation at the Stockholm Congress. *Nephron* was beginning to provide a prominent voice for European nephrologists, especially those from French-speaking areas or countries. The publication of summaries of articles in other journals (written by the authors themselves) was well received by nephrologists from developing countries. Although much desired, submissions of best-quality work from North America remained distressingly low. *Nephron* was nevertheless serving the Society with distinction and lessons learned from its failures and successes contributed substantively to the later successful launch of *Kidney International*.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, JUNE 22–27, 1969

Nils Alwall (Lund), a pioneer in dialysis and clinical nephrology, was the President of this Congress. Bertil Josephson (Stockholm) served as Chairman of the Organizing Committee and he was assisted ably by Secretary General Fredrik Berglund, also from Stockholm [40].



Fig. 5. The Opening Ceremony of the IV ISN Congress, Stockholm, 1972. At the table, left to right, are Bertil Josephson, Secretary General of the Congress; Aven Moberg, Minister for Research; Nils Alwall, Congress President; John P. Merrill, ISN President. (Courtesy of Mrs. N. Alwall and M. Aurell)

In the early years of the Society, the local Organizing Committees bore the entire financial responsibility for the Congresses. The total budget for the Stockholm Congress was modest by today's expenditures, only SEK 950,000 (about US \$100,000!) [41]. Nevertheless, the Society's complete lack of funds meant that its input was limited mainly to lending its name or “sponsorship” to each venue, and diplomatically applying whatever influence it could bring to bear on the design of the scientific program. Stockholm was no exception. Nevertheless, even in the absence of an official ISN Advisory Committee, the local Organizing Committee was diligent in its attempts to seek counsel from leaders in the field in both Europe and North America. The consultative style of the local leadership ensured yet another scientific program with the desired international and multidisciplinary character.

The Stockholm Congress accommodated approximately 1,900 registrants from 42 countries [40]. The format differed from that in Washington, D.C., in the sense that it comprised only one general session and 18 symposia but 385 free communications. An additional 500 abstracts were not presented but were published in an abstract book and distributed to each registrant. The *Proceedings* were edited by Alwall, Berglund and Josephson, and published by S. Karger after the Congress in three volumes containing a total of 861 pages. Its publication cost was defrayed largely by a grant from AB Astra of Sweden.

In their “Preface” to the *Proceedings*, Alwall, Berglund and Josephson acknowledged publicly, for the first time, an issue that would surround all future Congresses to some degree when they wrote: “When congresses in a specialized field are held every third year, it cannot be

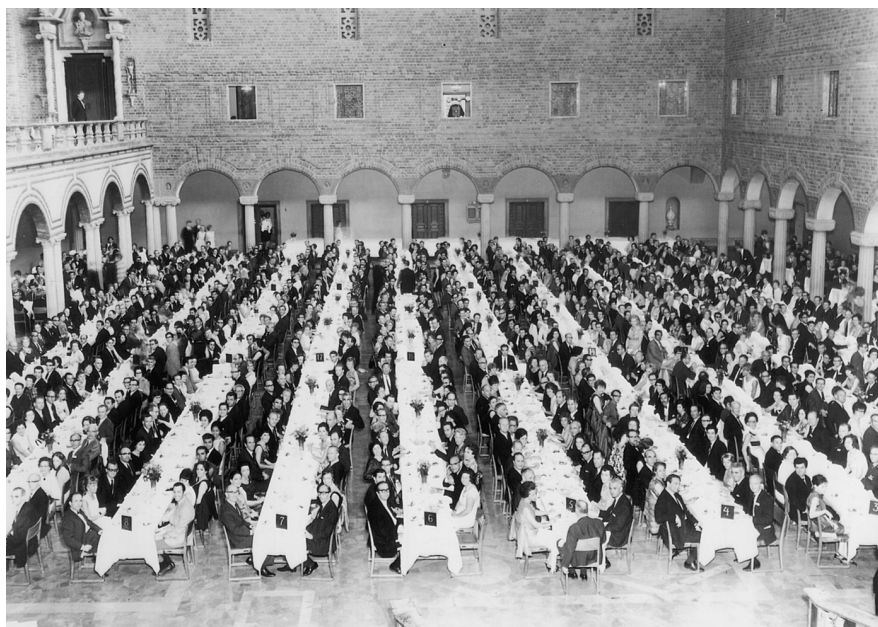


Fig. 6. Dinner of the Congress President, Fourth ISN Congress, Stockholm Town Hall, Stockholm, June 1969. The fifth table from the right is the Head Table. (Courtesy of Mrs. N. Alwall and M. Aurell)

avoided that some information is repeated” [40]. In the view of many investigators, it was permissible for submitted abstracts to have first been presented elsewhere; hence, the free communication sessions were never restricted to the first-time presentation of original scientific observations. This fact, coupled with a heavy reliance on invited speakers, contributed importantly to overall programs that provided a thorough educational overview of the field as it existed in the year of each Congress.

The scientific program in Stockholm was again high in quality. Frank Dixon (USA) and John Merrill (USA) introduced two extensive immunologic sessions on the pathogenesis and immunosuppressive treatment of glomerular diseases; Belding Scribner (USA) and Roy Calne (UK) led outstanding discussions of chronic dialysis and transplantation, respectively; Karl Ullrich (Germany) spoke to recent advances in renal physiology, followed appropriately by sessions on functional-structural relationships, renal medullary function, macromolecule excretion, and the renal control of acid and ammonia excretion. Still other sessions focused on natriuretic hormone, the function of the juxtaglomerular apparatus, selected aspects of hypertension, diuretics, uremic toxicity, and calcium and nitrogen metabolism in renal failure.

The Opening Ceremony was held in Stockholm’s Concert Hall at 5:00 p.m. on June 22, 1969 (Fig. 5). A welcome reception was held afterward at the National Museum for Science and Technology. The Ceremony was opened by a welcome from Congress President Alwall. Subsequently, Sven Moderq, Ph.D., who was then Sweden’s Minister for Research and a former Professor at the University of Lund, addressed the social and economic

consequences of the treatment of end-stage kidney disease. His remarks are as relevant today as they were in 1969 [42]. ISN President Merrill then reminded the delegates that it was the Society’s sole purpose “to advance the science of nephrology and to foster dissemination of this knowledge through International Congresses of Nephrology and by other means” [43].

The Stockholm Congress was memorable in many ways. First, a ceremonial copy of the special Festschrift published in *Nephron* in honor of the productive career in renal physiology of Robert F. Pitts was presented to him at a formal ceremony before the General Assembly [44]. Second was a delightful banquet in Stockholm’s Town Hall (site of the Nobel Ceremony banquet as well) where a filled hall feasted on beef filet, seasonal salad, flan d’avoine, and an after-dinner Cognac or crème de Cacao (Fig. 6). Seated at the head table were nephrologists Alwall, Josephson, Berglund, Villarreal, Kincaid-Smith, Hamburger, Merrill, Pitts, Brod, Richet, Berliner, Funck-Brentano, de Wardener, Dietz, Drukker, Ullrich, Migone, and Fairley with their spouses [41].

An Executive Committee meeting was held in Stockholm but the authors have again been unable to locate any minutes of this meeting. One source states that it was during this Congress when dissatisfaction with the publisher of *Nephron* first surfaced, and that a general unhappiness began to ensue [45]. Bricker, the new Treasurer, was said to have been particularly critical of Karger’s elusiveness [45]. The only available financial document consists of 1969 statements from the Secretary-General’s office that reflect a positive balance of FF 10,738 (~US \$1,800) [4]. Few reports on the financial

status of *Nephron* have been found. Another document also implies that the need for changes to the Constitution was discussed in Stockholm, and that they should be developed and presented at the next Congress [46]. A Nominating Committee was appointed by President Merrill and met once during the Congress (its known members included H. de Wardener, R.W. Berliner, K. Oshima and R.R. Robinson). Subsequently, Hugh E. de Wardener, assumed the Presidency; Herman Villarreal (Mexico, D.F.) replaced Funck-Brentano as Secretary-

General; P. Kincaid-Smith became President-Elect; N. Alwall, G.E. Schreiner, and L. Migone were elected First, Second, and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively; and N. Bricker became Treasurer. Councilors Sarre, Roguski, Oshima, Nussenzweig, Lambert, Josephson, de Graeff, Wirz and Brod were replaced by P. Michielsen (Belgium), P. Balint (Hungary), Y. Yoshitoshi (Japan), J. Dosssetor (Canada), T. Orłowski (Poland), T.D. Ullman (Israel), G. Giebish (USA), M. Maxwell (USA.) and A. Ruiz Guinazu (Argentina).

The Inter-Congress Period, 1969–1972

The period 1969 to 1972 proved to be one of the most active in the Society's history. The Presidential gavel was passed to Hugh E. de Wardener at the end of the Stockholm Congress and, after giving much thought to the Society's current status, he decided that it was necessary to make some important changes. Some of his subsequent actions or decisions proved to be controversial in the opinion of some. However, in the opinion of the authors, his decisions and the resultant changes have been proven correct by the passage of time.

It was de Wardener's view that the ISN should become much more vigorous, and that its programs and membership should keep closer pace with the rapid growth of nephrology throughout the world. Nephrology had become a discrete specialty and nephrologists were then located in almost all university hospitals. His view spoke directly to the old issue of "elitism" versus more "openness" as standards for admission to membership. To achieve these ends there was a need for a sound financial base, coupled with worthy programs that would justify membership in the Society. He came to feel that a successful journal could serve as a helpful magnet for the attraction of members while also providing a source of income for other societal programs. Richet, during a visit to London in the Spring of 1970, acquainted de Wardener with the current status of *Nephron* and explained that the Karger contract (implying that one was then in place) was due to expire on January 1, 1972 [6]. De Wardener then decided that an attempt to renegotiate the contract under more favorable terms should be undertaken sufficiently far in advance to permit a pursuit of other alternatives if the outcome was unsatisfactory. Simultaneously, the Society should try to enhance the appeal of the journal by expanding and re-aligning the Editorial Board with additional members of international stature. De Wardener was also well aware of the necessity to maintain *Nephron's* standards at the highest level. He believed further that the eventual offering of an array of attractive ISN programs would bring additional members into the fold and that a truly outstanding journal would provide the centerpiece for that effort. It was this line of reasoning that led him to conclude that dues and subscription should be coupled if the Society was to rely on the journal for the attraction of members. Parenthetically, during this period, there are occasional verbal references to ISN membership lists that ranged as high at 7000. Despite many attempts then and today, neither author has been able to locate any of these lists. Cer-

tainly, there is no financial record that dues were paid or if so, by whom. The authors suspect that such lists, if they existed at all, were mainly composed of referenced membership lists from a few national societies. To complicate matters even further, the criteria for membership in some national societies was often unclear to those outside the country in question; some were said to include types of clinicians other than nephrologists. Whatever, the events that followed the implementation of de Wardener's views were critical to the Society's future success.

De Wardener was anxious to ensure the future of the journal [45]. He discussed the matter with Richet and they agreed that a new contract with S. Karger should, at least, convey the ownership of the journal's copyright to the Society, offer reasonable promise of achieving a total circulation of 2,000, and provide for the Society's receipt of reasonable income.

Attempted negotiations with S. Karger were unsuccessful. Further, the Society's lack of money precluded a meeting of the full Executive Committee. Nevertheless, the President did hold two meetings with as many key members of the Committee as he could assemble. One was held in early 1971 in Atlantic City where he met with Bricker, the Treasurer; Villarreal, the Secretary-General; and Schreiner, the American Co-Editor of *Nephron*, to "discuss how we could try and increase the wealth of the Society" [46]. Three methods were proposed: (a) a change of arrangements with Karger; (b) initiation of corporate dues; and (c) inclusion of a sum for the Society in the registration fee of future Congresses. Apparently, a meeting between these four ISN representatives and Karger was also held in Atlantic City [46]. Among other things, it is interesting to note that Karger acknowledged that *Nephron* "should now be put on a contractual basis" [46], implying that such was not yet the case. Mr. Karger agreed to draw up a proposed contract for consideration [46]. The possibility of appointing a new Editor(s) was discussed and it was mentioned that Schreiner and Richet were "prepared to hand it over if a suitable person could be found" [46]. In the absence of a "formal way of electing the Editors to *Nephron*," it was agreed that this issue should be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive. Meanwhile, the President, Treasurer and Secretary General "should take action with the approval of the two existing Editors." [46]. Maurice Strauss of Boston was suggested as a possibility. On March 17, 1971, at the Café Royal in London, de

Wardener met with several members of the Executive Committee (de Wardener, Villarreal, Bricker, Alwall, Traeger, Ullrich, Giebisch, Migone and Orlowski are said to have been in attendance [47]) who could pay their own travel expenses [47, 48]. After discussion of relevant issues at these meetings, it was confirmed finally that a new international publisher should be sought, that dues and subscription should be coupled, that the journal should be edited in the United States, and that Maurice Strauss (USA) should be solicited as the new Editor. Other items on the agenda of this meeting included consideration of the name of the new journal, future mechanisms for fund-raising, and proposed Constitutional changes for consideration in Mexico [46].

A search for a new publisher was then set in motion during the spring of 1971. Bricker approached Little, Brown & Co., Academic Press, and Springer-Verlag, two of which (Academic Press and Springer-Verlag) had offices on both sides of the Atlantic. President de Wardener paid a visit to Heidelberg and concluded that an arrangement with Springer-Verlag would be advantageous. A contract with Springer-Verlag was signed by President de Wardener which provided for the publication of a monthly journal with a maximum of approximately 750 editorial pages per year in two volumes. Additional pages could be purchased by the Society, which retained ownership of the title and the copyright. The Editorial Office would receive US \$8,000 per year for its operations but there was no allowance for editorial stipends. The Society would share in 50% of any profit once the initial start-up costs had been recouped by the publisher. The membership subscription price for a monthly rather than a bi-monthly journal was US \$24, which, when coupled with annual dues of US \$6, established a total charge for members of US \$30. The subscription rate was higher for nonmembers (US \$41.50) and still higher for institutions.

The selection of Springer-Verlag precluded the choice of Maurice Strauss as Editor because he had wished to work only with Little, Brown & Co., whose offices were then restricted to the United States alone. It was then that Neal Bricker brought forward the name of Roscoe R. "Ike" Robinson (who was then Director of the Division of Nephrology at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, USA) as a possible candidate for the Editorship. An exploratory telephone call to Robinson was completely unexpected, but he agreed to think it over. Robinson spent the next two days in telephone contact with many nephrological friends and colleagues to assess the likelihood of American support for Bricker's proposal (which basically amounted to the establishment of a new journal). The response was sufficiently positive for him to meet with Bricker, de Wardener, and B. Grossman, a representative of Springer-Verlag's New York office. The meeting was held in a hotel near New

York's JFK Airport on June 5, 1971, where Robinson was much impressed by the fact that de Wardener had arrived from London in the forenoon and would return on the same day at the end of the meeting [17, 48]. Neither had ever met each other except through their literature. Neal Bricker had been the principal figure in all of the antecedent discussions with Robinson but, after the JFK meeting, de Wardener seemed comfortable with Bricker's recommendation [17, 48]. In retrospect, such is perhaps surprising because Robinson had no prior editorial experience and, as was the case with many in the United States, he even had no idea whether or not he was a bona fide member of the ISN. He knew only that he was a subscriber to *Nephron* and a member of the newly formed American Society of Nephrology.

Prior to the JFK meeting, de Wardener had learned that the Society's journal would have to have a new name, since ownership of the name *Nephron* arguably belonged to S. Karger. He suggested the name *Kidney*, but it was thought by some in the United States to compete unnecessarily with *The Kidney*, an educational newsletter of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) of the United States. Richard Freeman (Rochester, NY, USA), who was then active in NKF affairs, suggested to Robinson that the entire matter could be put to rest easily by inserting the word "International" in "*very small letters beneath much larger letters for the word 'Kidney'.*" And so the name *Kidney International (KI)* was born.

C. Craig Tisher (Durham, NC, USA) and Claude Amiel (Paris) were recruited as Assistant Editors. *Kidney International* presented a new and expanded Editorial Board with much broader representation from North America. Tisher visited the Paris office of *Nephron* in the summer of 1971. With outstanding support from Jean Dormont, who paid an instructive and reciprocal visit to Durham, Robinson, Tisher and Amiel were able to launch the first issue of *Kidney International* on time in January 1972.

In a "Preface" to the first issue, Robinson reminded the new journal's readership of the successes and internationality (125 published manuscripts from almost 25 countries) of *Nephron* during the preceding eight years, and pledged his support for a journal that would continue "*to reflect the international scope and interests*" of the ISN [49]. Further, he declared his hope that the journal would be multidisciplinary in its content and that the "*clinical nephrologist, the clinical scientist, and the basic scientist*" could all be made to feel at home among its pages. The main foundation of content would be provided by the publication of original kidney-relevant research from any discipline. "*Clinical and scientific excellence*" were to be given primary emphasis in manuscript selection [49].

The total circulation of *KI* rose gratifyingly to 2,194 by August 31, 1972, just prior to the next Congress in

Mexico [50]. By year-end, it had risen to 2,420, a figure that included 1,733 member-subscribers and 667 institutional subscribers [51]. Sixty-three percent of the total circulation was delivered to North American subscribers, 22% to Europe, 3.1% to Latin America, 1.9% to Africa and the Middle East, 8.4% to Asia, and 1.8% to Australia and New Zealand. Two hundred twenty-eight full-length manuscripts or technical notes were submitted for publication during that first critical year (1972), of which 34% were accepted [51]. By comparison with today's issues, the early issues of *KI* were thin indeed. The single issues of Volume 1 averaged 71 editorial pages with 6.5 full-length manuscripts and 10 pages of advertising [50]. The early content was heavily oriented toward physiologically based material, again reflecting the support of North American researchers for the new enterprise. Parenthetically, if there was any editorial bias at the beginning of *KI*, it was canted clearly toward the perceived need to first attract bench-oriented basic research of high quality from the best North American laboratories, believing that such material would never be attracted if the new journal first established itself as even a quality clinical journal. The development of strengthened clinical content would have to come later, as eventually came to pass.

The advent of *Kidney International* gave rise, in microcosm, to a set of editorial challenges that paralleled those surrounding the larger development of almost any international organization. The desire to attract strong American science and the resultant assignment of final editorial responsibility to the United States office led some outside North America to worry that too much editorial authority had now been vested in North America. There was a worry, almost always voiced privately, that manuscripts from other parts of the world would be favored less and that *KI* would become nothing more than an "American" journal. Such fears were conveyed directly to the Editor only on a very few occasions. Most were communicated indirectly via a third party intermediary. From the beginning, the Editors agreed that quality would always be given first consideration in the acceptance of any manuscript, but an acceptance rate of no more than 30 to 40% meant that there was plenty of potential opportunity for author disaffection, whatever their national origin. To minimize these concerns and emphasize the journal's commitment to internationality, it was decided (1) to continue the publication of the abstracts in French in honor of the Society's founders (with thanks to Claude Amiel who assumed the responsibility for their translation from English); (2) that the Paris office would select a European reviewer for European manuscripts (as well as for many from North America or elsewhere); and that a copy of one or more European reviews alongside the recommendation of the Paris office would be submitted to the North Carolina office for final decision; (3) that the Editorial Office would do

its best to explain the reason for manuscript rejection to the author; and (4) that the Editorial Office would provide necessary language editing to those who were burdened by having to write in a language other than their own. A full measure of support, tact and diplomacy would be required if internationality was to be achieved and maintained, and proper attention paid to the legitimate needs and interests of different national constituencies (including those of laboratories in developed vs. developing countries).

From time to time, similar concerns would arise during the subsequent development of the larger Society. The bulk of the Society's membership would be resident in North America, and an unofficial agreement to rotate the Presidency between Europe and North America was achieved in order to guarantee internationality and avoid a North American hegemony. Nevertheless, there were times when both the President, the Treasurer, and the Editor would be located in North America, leading some to worry that too much political power was concentrated in North America. To some extent, such fears would be offset by location of the Secretary-General in Europe. Satisfactory resolution of legitimate chauvinistic concerns of different geographic regions is an important objective if any international society is to be truly successful. Subsequent events over the next many years would establish beyond any doubt that the ISN would be one of those most successful. In part, such success can be attributed to a succession of responsible leadership which remained ever sensitive to the long-term political requirements of internationality.

Other important events occurred during de Wardener's Presidency. At the meeting of the Executive Committee in London on March 17, 1971 [46, 52], a number of modifications to the by-laws were developed and proposed by a group composed of de Wardener, L. Migone, N.S. Bricker, T. Orlowski (Warsaw), G.H. Giebisch (New York), and H. Villarreal. The proposed changes were to be presented for possible adoption at the Mexico Congress. They dealt mainly with clarification of the composition of the Executive Committee (10 officers and 16 members of the Board!), the appointment of Hamburger as a member of the Board in perpetuum, more exact definition of terms of office and a quorum of the Executive Committee (seven members), the establishment of a process for the Nominating Committee, the process for appointment of an Editor, and the creation of a five-member Management Committee for Journal Affairs [52].

The arrangement for processing individual applications for membership and subscription remained extraordinarily complex. First, a new individual applicant had to be sponsored by two members, a completed application then had to be sent to the Secretary-General's office in Mexico, D.F. (along with payment in the amount of US \$30), the monies were forwarded from Mexico, D.F.

to the Treasurer in New York who, in turn notified the publisher of a new subscriber to the journal. In addition, at the next Congress all individual applications were supposed to be approved by both the Executive Committee and the General Membership. Processing an application could take weeks or even months, a frustrating issue for those who were attempting to expand the circulation of *KI* and the dues-paying membership of the Society. Consequently, as time passed, sponsorship by two members became much more automatic or pro forma and individual applications were never presented to the General Assembly for approval. However slowly, the Society was moving toward an open membership by default, if nothing else.

All of the changes during the period of 1969 to 1972 were carried out with dispatch in keeping with President de Wardener's propensity for action and decisiveness. Inevitably, a few feathers were ruffled and some were offended by actions that had not been approved at an official meeting of the full Executive Committee (some members felt that they had not been informed or invited to the London meeting in March 1971). The American Editorial Office of *Nephron* declared that it had never been consulted or informed properly about the editorial transition. The controversial decision to couple dues and subscription was made soon after Robinson accepted the Editorship. It would continue to fester until it was resolved finally later in the decade. Nevertheless, for an amorphous and struggling Society without a dependable administrative infrastructure, with no money, and with an Executive Committee whose members were scattered around the world (and who were variously informed on the nuances of each issue) and met no more frequently than every three years, a strong case can be made for resolute action with speed and authority. In the opinion of these authors, a debt of gratitude is owed to de Wardener for his courage and leadership.

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, MEXICO D.F., MEXICO, OCTOBER 8–13, 1972

The Society's Secretary-General, Herman Villarreal, also served as the President of this Congress (Fig. 7). He was assisted by Emilio Exaire as Secretary-General and David Santos as Head of Finance. Heriberto Arcila and Villarreal Co-Chaired the Scientific Program.

Again, the fifth Congress was enormously successful. It was attended by approximately 2,650 participants from 57 countries [53]. Attendance was additionally encouraged when President Gerhard Giebisch and the Council of the young American Society of Nephrology elected to cancel its regular 1972 meeting in deference to that of the Mexico Congress. It was a magnanimous gesture that spoke pointedly to the perceived importance of the



Fig. 7. News photo from a local newspaper shot during the 1972 V ISN Congress in Mexico, D.F. Herman Villarreal, President of the Congress, explains the function of a hemodialyzer to prominent officials of the Mexican government. (Courtesy of David Santos)

Mexico meeting and the benefit that derived from the elimination of possible scientific conflict between closely approximated meetings. It would be many years before the ISN again sought to conserve the burgeoning number of scientific venues by offering to share its Congresses with established meetings of regional societies.

Overall, the records indicate that 1,040 abstracts were submitted and that 432 were selected for presentation [53]. In preparing the scientific program, the local organizing committee consulted informally with leading nephrologists from around the world. Careful consideration was given to the geographic distribution of speakers in order to maintain the international character of the meeting. In its final form, the scientific program included two plenary sessions (each with more than one invited presentation), 17 symposia, six "state-of-the-art" lectures, and a large number of free communications.

The *Proceedings* were edited by Villarreal and published by S. Karger in three volumes containing a total of 696 pages: I, *Morphology and Pathology*; II, *Physiology*; and III, *Clinical* [54].

The format of the scientific program again focused heavily on a central theme, namely, the nature of recent advances in the broad field of nephrology and the possible direction of future developments. Each morning, at a general session, the Chairs of the preceding day's symposia summarized the main issues that had been discussed at their meeting on the preceding day. Such a format was yet another step toward utilizing the Congresses in support of a form of continuing education.

Certain scientific trends and clinical topics were clearly foremost in thought and action in 1972: the immunopathology of glomerulonephritis; the immunologic basis of transplantation; lupus nephritis and the nephropathies

of septic diseases; the control of renin secretion, functional characteristics of the loop of Henle; advantages and limitations of renal micropuncture; proteinuria; calcium, phosphorus, vitamin D and uremia; advances in dialysis; and the effects of essential amino acids in chronic uremia.

A special highlight of the scientific program was the presentation of the Homer W. Smith Award to Robert F. Pitts (New York, NY, USA). This award, presented at an ISN Congress for the first and only time, was sponsored by the New York Heart Association and The American Society of Nephrology, and ordinarily is presented at the annual meeting of the ASN. However, on this occasion, Professor Pitts' acceptance lecture on "Metabolic Fuels of the Kidney" lent a very special flavor to the Congress [55]. Last, John Merrill's lecture on the "Future of Nephrology" is deserving of equally special note, for he vividly delineated the severe limitations of the therapies then in vogue and predicted that final therapeutic success must await our mastery of biochemical and immunologic processes within the diseased organ [56].

One highlight of a meeting of the General Assembly was President de Wardener's presentation of well deserved certificates of appreciation to George Schreiner, Gabriel Richet and Jean Dormont for their excellent work as Editors of the Society's first journal, *Nephron*, during its initial difficult and formative years. The presentation was followed by R.R. Robinson's first report on the status of *Kidney International* to the Society's general membership. By August 31, 1972, he reported that the top 10 most represented countries among subscribers were, in descending order, the USA, Japan, Germany, Canada, France, Italy, UK, Australia, Mexico, and Spain. Volume I of *KI* contained 39 full-length manuscripts; 74% of the content derived from the USA, 23% from Europe, and 3% from Asia. By September 15, 1972, the Journal had utilized the generous assistance of 256 reviewers (74% from the USA and 26% from Europe) with an average time for the first review of 29 days. The Editor expressed his hope that the new journal was off to a solid beginning.

By now, it was clear that dues-paying ISN membership was limited to member subscribers to *KI*. Nevertheless, the recent transition to coupling of dues and subscription and the inadequacy of the Society's processes and records continued to generate all sorts of figures on ISN membership. Indeed, in Mexico, a number of non-dues-paying "members" were said to have voted and even some of the Executive were not listed as dues-paying members [57]. All of this represented a dramatic example of the confused state of ISN membership in this era!

As befitting of a meeting in Mexico, the social program was equally outstanding. Few could forget passing by a fully lighted National Palace in the evening, or a glorious performance of the Ballet Folklorica Amalia Hernandez,

all of which were capped by a most gracious Presidential dinner at the Marine Club on still another evening. President Villarreal and his associates were most generous hosts.

The large Executive Committee of the ISN met on two occasions in Mexico City, on October 8 and 10, 1972. The first meeting was concerned mainly with the receipt of proposed nominations for various offices from a Nominating Committee chaired by Karl Ullrich. The Executive Committee considered the nominees and made modest changes as permitted by the Constitution and By-Laws then in effect. Two candidates were placed in nomination for each office, one of whom would be chosen by vote of the general membership. It was also decided that the new Nominating Committee (to be chaired by E.L. Becker, USA [6]) for the next Congress would be asked to do its work by correspondence during the inter-Congress period in an attempt to set a proper nominating process in place. The second meeting considered the future site of the 1975 Congress and changed the venue from Venice to Florence in the belief that logistical support for a meeting whose attendance was approaching 3,000 would be better served in the latter city. Montreal, Canada was selected as the site of the 1978 Congress, contingent upon approval by the Canadian Society [47]. Article X of the By-Laws was modified to state that the "*Editor shall determine editorial policy*" rather than "*be responsible for editorial policy*," although the legality of this vote was later questioned in the absence of confirmation by the General Assembly. A number of other issues were considered as well [47], ranging from the future need for a joint meeting between the Nominating and Executive Committees to develop the final list of nominees, to the desirability of strengthened communication between previous and future organizers of Congresses. In many ways, these two meetings of the Executive Committee were among the first to begin to try and address at least some of the cumbersome and impractical processes that burdened the Society's operations and governance.

Priscilla Kincaid-Smith became President at the end of this Congress. H. Villarreal continued as Secretary-General, Nils Alwall (Lund) was elected President-Elect; Neal Bricker continued as Treasurer and R.R. Robinson as Editor. The First, Second and Third Vice Presidents were G. Schreiner, L. Migone and G. Richet, respectively. The 1972-75 Council was composed of J. Hamburger (Paris), P. Michielsen (Belgium), K. Thureau (Munich), P. Balint (Budapest), Y. Yoshitoshi (Tokyo), J. Dossetor (Canada), T. Orlowski (Warsaw), A. Ruiz-Guinazu (Argentina), G. Giebisch (USA), M. Maxwell (USA), D.W. Seldin (USA), F. Kiil (Norway), O. Wrong (UK), F. Morel (France), and J. Robinson (New Zealand). The Management committee would include P. Kincaid-Smith (Chair), H. de Wardener, N. S. Bricker, T. Orlowski, and H. Villarreal [47].

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1972–1975

Priscilla Kincaid-Smith was an active President and several important issues were raised during her tenure. She herself once described her Presidency as a “*tempestuous period*” [58].

For the first time, the Society was in charge of its business and financial affairs. No longer was it necessary to deal with a third-party company that served as its publisher, its dues collector, and its treasurer. Importantly, it was during this period that the Society first began to accumulate sufficient monies to enable it to consider the future implementation of new programs.

Much of the improvement in the financial circumstances of the Society was attributed to the growing success of *Kidney International*. By the end of calendar years 1973, 1974 and 1975, total circulation had risen to 2,806, 3,455, and 4,149, respectively [59]. Similarly, member-subscribers in the same years had risen to 1,753, 2,093, and 2,482. Total submissions (including supplements) stood at 330 by the end of 1975, of which 238 were original full-length manuscripts. Fifty-six percent of all submissions in 1975 were from the United States [59]. The acceptance rate for unsolicited full-length manuscripts in the same year was 32%. Of equal importance was the fact that *KI* became profitable and Springer-Verlag had recouped almost all of its start-up costs by the end of 1974. Consequently, by the end of 1975, the Society received its first distribution of US \$49,742.11 from journal profit for 1975 [59]. It was becoming increasingly clear that *KI* would be a successful venture.

Nevertheless, upon taking office, Kincaid-Smith was the recipient of complaints from individuals who were distressed by the increased cost of dues imposed by the mandatory required coupling of the Society’s dues with a subscription to *Kidney International*. It was her view that this decision had been made unilaterally without the official concurrence of the full Executive Committee. In fact, as then the President-Elect and now the new President, the decision had come to her as a complete surprise [60]. She felt keenly that a membership fee of US \$30 would create a problem for members or candidates from less affluent countries and that members should be able to choose whether or not they wished to receive the journal. The new President’s view was shared by several colleagues on the Society’s Executive Committee. On the other hand, others felt equally strongly that uncoupling might limit the economic prosperity of the Society because a triennial Congress provided an insufficient reason for the payment of dues (since ISN membership was not a requirement for attendance). Further, the provision of a monthly journal of high quality at a reduced fee might serve as a magnet for the attraction of new members. Some even felt that the main stimulus for joining the Society was provided by access

to the journal at a reduced fee. Last, as *KI* was attempting to establish its scientific credibility in the early years, others feared that uncoupling might harm its financial development if the membership elected to pay dues alone and not subscribe to the journal.

Soon after the Congress in Mexico, President Kincaid-Smith submitted a mail ballot to the Executive Committee (and later in 1973 to the general membership) for a vote on the contentious issue of “coupling” versus “uncoupling” of dues and subscription [61]. She reported that “uncoupling” was favored by the majority in both instances (by a vote of 14–8 in the Executive Committee, and one of “over 60%” among the general membership) [62]. In turn, these mail ballots caught the supporters of “coupling” by surprise in view of the fact that dissatisfaction with coupling had not been voiced but a few months earlier at meetings of the full Executive Committee in Mexico. They felt strongly that mail ballots did not lend themselves to a full presentation of the pro’s and con’s of complex issues, and that the sometimes subtle nuances of complicated questions could be best discussed at a called meeting of the Executive Committee [63]. These questions were debated warmly, even emotionally, during the early months of 1973 without final resolution [63–65]. Several alternatives to coupling were proposed by individual members of the Executive Committee. One, proposed by G. Schreiner, was of possible interest, although it neglected the difficulty of dealing and communicating with national societies in a timely and business-like fashion [64, 65]. The Editor of *KI* pressed for early resolution if for no other reason than the language of the renewal notices for calendar year 1974 should be decided by the end of summer in 1973.

An informal meeting was held at London’s Heathrow Airport on June 8, 1973. In attendance were Kincaid-Smith, N. Alwall, H. de Wardener, N. Bricker, H. Villarreal and R.R. Robinson. All agreed that coupling should remain in place for 1973, and possibly for 1974 as well since a meeting of the full Executive Committee could not be held in advance of a need to mail dues renewal notices by the end of August 1973 [65]. Unresolved, in the event of uncoupling, was how the Society could retain sufficient financial support for the journal while simultaneously keeping the membership fee at a level that would not preclude membership from less affluent countries. It was this basic question that had led Kincaid-Smith to raise the issue in the first place. Accordingly, she queried the Executive Committee as to whether or not it wished to meet in October 1973, or leave the whole matter for discussion in Florence in June 1975. Most agreed that a meeting should be held in October 1973.

The called meeting of the Executive Committee was held on October 24–25 at the Cunard International Hotel in London. It was attended by P. Kincaid-Smith (Presi-

dent), N. Alwall (President-Elect), H. de Wardener (Past-President), H. Villarreal (Secretary-General), N. S. Bricker (Treasurer), R.R. Robinson (Editor), and G. Schreiner, L. Migone, G. Richet, D. Seldin, J. Hamburger, L. Welt, P. Balint, K. Thurau, F. Kiil, G. Giebisch, T. Orlowski, P. Michielsen, Y. Yoshitoshi, and J. Dossetor. The meeting proved to be one of the most important in the history of the Society, for a number of controversial questions were addressed successfully. Just as importantly, the meeting ended on a harmonious note and almost everyone was gratified by the outcome of the discussions.

Following a full discussion on the current state of *KI*, including its finances, it was agreed unanimously that the *"coupling of dues and subscription should not be abandoned at this time, but that this be considered at a time when the Journal appears to be fiscally sound as suggested by the Management Committee and approved by the Executive Committee and at that time the fiscal support of the Journal and the Society be guaranteed by some method as yet to be determined, and that the President be authorized to exempt specific individuals because of special national constraints from the present obligatory coupling between membership fee and Journal subscription. The Presidents of national societies should be informed of this action by the Executive Committee"* [66]. The warm debate on coupling versus uncoupling was finally brought to closure by this action, at least temporarily. Coupling was not brought to final closure until a revised Constitution and By-Laws were adopted by the general membership during the Montreal Congress in 1978. Even though dues and subscription were to remain coupled, it is equally gratifying to note that the Society remained sensitive to the limited financial resources of individual candidates for membership from developing or emerging countries. Later, as the financial bases of *KI* and the Society became increasingly firm and even substantial, a number of programs would be set in place to facilitate the journal's distribution to developing countries and accommodate their representatives as members.

Another contentious issue was also laid to rest: The March 1971 meeting in London, which some had not accepted as an official meeting, was finally acknowledged as official [66]. It was agreed further that the status of ISN membership was in urgent need of clarification and that the Constitution and By-Laws were in sore need of revision. Two subcommittees were appointed, one based in the United States and one in Europe, to begin a rewrite of the Constitution (U.S.: L. Welt, G. Schreiner and D. Seldin; Europe: P. Michielsen, P. Balint and K. Thurau). In the United States, Seldin and Schreiner reviewed the Constitutions of as many as 15 international societies in preparation for creating a first draft of a proposed ISN Constitution [37]. Michielsen led a similar effort in Europe. The results of both the USA and European efforts

would be reviewed by the Executive Committee immediately before or during the Florence Congress.

The meeting then focussed on the status of the Florence Congress: It was suggested that ISN members whose dues were paid for 1974 and 1975 should receive a one-third reduction in the registration fee at the Florence Congress. The Executive also believed that plans for simultaneous translation into English, French, and Italian should be abandoned and that such monies would be better spent in support of travel grants for young investigators. Last, it was announced that the Local Organizing Committee in Italy had appointed an International Advisory Committee for development of the scientific program whose members included L. Migone (Chair), R.H. Heptinstall (Baltimore), G. Richet (Paris), K. Thurau (Munich), G. Schreiner (Washington, D.C.), G. Andres (Buffalo), G. Onesti (Philadelphia), and P. Kincaid-Smith (Melbourne). It was scheduled to meet in 1974.

President Kincaid-Smith then announced her plan to hold at least two ISN-endorsed or sponsored international symposia which would be published as Supplements in *Kidney International* [66]. The meeting closed with a conjoint meeting with representatives of Springer-Verlag to consider a number of routine issues surrounding the production of the Society's journal. The publisher's support for the publication of a new Directory of ISN members was secured at this meeting.

In comparison with events between the Mexico City Congress in October 1972, and the London meeting of the Executive Committee in October 1973, the remainder of Kincaid-Smith's tenure was relatively tranquil. Her sensitivity to the needs of less affluent countries was commendable, as was her insistence that all future decisions and actions should be constitutionally correct. Of particular importance was her recognition of the fact that the then-current Constitution, written in the earliest days of the Society, was no longer adequate to serve the developing needs of the Society. Kincaid-Smith's appointment of a talented committee to address its revision perhaps stands as one of the most important actions of her Presidency [68]. Certainly, the more tumultuous events of 1973–74 now seem relatively trivial when juxtaposed against a longer view of the Society's history [68].

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, FLORENCE, ITALY, JUNE 8–12, 1975

The Sixth Congress was held under the high patronage of the President of the Republic of Italy with sponsorship by the ISN and organization by the Italian Society of Nephrology [69]. The Local Organizing Committee for the Florence Congress was led by Enrico Fiaschi (Padua) as President; Luigi Migone (Parma) as Vice President; and Vittorio Bonomini (Bologna) as Secretary-General



Fig. 8. ISN President Priscilla Kincaid-Smith and Vittorio Bonomini, Secretary-General of the Florence Congress, at a press conference during the VI ISN Congress, Florence, June 1975. (Courtesy of P. Kincaid-Smith)

(Fig. 8). Local Coordinators included A. Constantini (Florence), G. D'Amico (Milan), S. Giovannetti (Pisa) and A. Vercellone (Turin) [70]. Notably, this was the first Congress in which only one of the seven members of the Local Organizing Committee was resident in the host city. Initially, the geographic separation produced a few logistical difficulties, but all of them were overcome eventually. Any such difficulties were minor indeed when compared with the advantages of meeting in one of the world's most remarkable cities. Alfiero Constantini, a prominent urologic surgeon in Florence, and his spouse deserve great credit for their many and memorable logistical and social contributions to the success of this Congress.

The Congress Advisory Committee (the first so named in the history of the Society) met twice: once one year in advance of the Congress and again three months before the meeting. It was agreed that clinical nephrology would be emphasized at this Congress, largely as a reflection of the explosive growth that was then taking place in dialysis and transplantation. The basic sciences were not to be excluded; instead, their many contributions to clinical advances were to be emphasized. As in all previous Congresses, the Local Organizing Committee bore the full responsibility for the financial success or failure of the meeting.

The Congress was attended by 1,853 delegates and approximately 900 accompanying members (total attendance ~2,753 persons). The early registration fee (if paid before March 31, 1975) was US \$135 for ISN members and US \$180 for nonmembers. Thereafter, the registration fee rose to US \$165 for members and US \$220 for nonmembers [70].

Most of the scientific sessions were held in the Palazzo dei Congressi and the Palazzo degli Affari in the Con-

gress area. The meeting was organized around a single plenary session on Advances in Nephrology and 16 symposia on topics such as renal physiology, hypertension, kidney diseases, renal failure, and dialysis and transplantation. Particular attention was paid to renal hypertension (with special emphasis on the role of altered sodium metabolism) and the relationship between glomerular hemodynamics and the control of glomerular filtration and proteinuria. For the first time, an entire symposium was devoted to interstitial nephritis of varied etiologies. Several presentations dealt with the use of immunosuppression and plasmapheresis in the management of various forms of glomerulonephritis. Of special note was a lecture on "Advances in Renal Endocrinology" by W. Peart, which heralded the advent of a new physiologic orientation, namely, the functional control of renal hemodynamics by locally derived and short-acting hormones [70]. Of 1,054 submitted abstracts, 254 were selected for oral presentation via a double-blind system [71]. In comparison with previous Congresses, the scientific program was somewhat restricted in the hope that "quality" would prevail over "quantity." There was no poster session.

Printed scientific materials for distribution at the Congress included an Abstract Book and a Book of Summaries of the symposia. Afterward, in a most timely fashion, all manuscripts presented during the plenary session and each symposium were collated into a single volume as a *Proceedings* of the Congress (765 pages, edited by S. Giovannetti, V. Bonomini and G. D'Amico), and published by S. Karger [71].

Florence proved to be an exciting venue. Few settings could compete with the Franciscan Church of Santa Croce as the location for an Opening Ceremony at 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, June 8th (Fig. 9). The marble tombs intended for such great Italian figures as Galileo, Rossini and Michelangelo alongside the 14th Century frescoes of Giotto provided the background for a truly impressive ceremony, followed by a reception in the cloister between the Church and the old convent refectory next door (highlighted by a folklorica show of Tuscan flag-wavers) [72, 73]. Later in the week, a gala dinner and an evening at a magnificent villa outside of Florence (the Villa di Mezzomonte) were marred only by a thunderstorm and a drenching downpour of rain.

Other social events of note included tours of Florence by night and a performance by a fabulous concert ensemble in the ancient church of Santa Maria Novella that included the well-known flautist S. Gazzelloni [69, 72]. Free entry to Florentine museums was provided to all participants [69]. The Ladies Committee (Chaired by Adelaide Maria Costantini and Lima Fiaschi) also arranged a very special fashion show at the shop of Emilio Pucci.

The Executive Committee met on at least two occasions during the Florentine Congress. The first meeting



Fig. 9. Congress Vice President L. Migone welcomes participants in the VI ISN Congress during the Opening Ceremony in this Church of Sante Croce, Florence, 1975.

was concerned with small adjustments to the list of nominees developed by a Nominating Committee in preparation for submission of a ballot to the general membership. Although the actual voting process was again marred by several irregularities including such difficulties as membership verification and the establishment of eligibility to vote, a new roster of officers and councilors was nevertheless established [4]: P. Kincaid-Smith became Past President and Nils Alwall assumed the Office of President. G.E. Schreiner was voted President-Elect while H. Villarreal, G. Richet, and G. Giebisch assumed the offices of First, Second and Third Vice-President, respectively. John Moorhead (London) replaced H. Villarreal as Secretary-General while N.S. Bricker and R.R. Robinson continued as Treasurer and Editor, respectively. Continuing councilors included J. Hamburger, K. Thureau, P. Balint, D.W. Seldin, F. Kiil, O. Wrong, F. Morel and J. Robinson. Councilors elected for new nine-year terms included R.H. Heptinstall (Baltimore), M. Goldberg (Philadelphia), L.E. Earley (San Francisco), G. Lemieux

(Montreal), W. Asscher (Cardiff), D. Earle (Chicago), C. Giordano (Naples), R. Habib (Paris), and C. Johnston (Melbourne) [74].

Robinson's Editorial Report during the Congress revealed that the total paid circulation of *KI* had risen to 3,455 by the end of calendar year 1974, inclusive of 2,093 member-subscribers [59]. Total submissions (including Supplements) were 400, of which 255 were original full-length manuscripts and technical notes [59]. Sixty-eight percentage of submitted manuscripts were from the United States and Canada and the overall acceptance rate was 27% [59]. On May 10, 1975, just prior to the Congress, the total circulation was 3,555, of which 2,145 were member-subscribers [75]. The journal's total profit for 1974 was US \$35,326, a figure sufficient to permit the publisher to recoup almost all of the losses associated with starting a new journal. Robinson emphasized that the 1974 acceptance rate for original manuscripts was distressingly low and that a broadened base of content and an increased number of editorial pages were high priorities for the next three years. An increased subscription price was said to be likely in the near future since it had been held constant during the first four years of the journal's life (1972 through 1975).

Perhaps the most important agenda item for discussion by the Executive Committee was a consideration of the two drafts of a revised Constitution and By-Laws as submitted independently by the North American and European Committees. A number of further revisions were suggested that led to the appointment of P. Michielssen, D. Seldin and G. Schreiner as a single Committee under the Chairmanship of K. Thureau to consider the assemblage of a final draft during the Presidency of Nils Alwall. It was felt strongly by all members of the Executive Committee that no particular group, country, or discipline should be permitted to establish a form of hegemony over the affairs of the Society. A new Constitution should also provide for smoother operating efficiency without loss of multidisciplinary representation or internationality. A definite shift in thought was also occurring with respect to the categories and requirements for membership. In the beginning, the Society was composed mainly of those who were "chosen," and it was felt that admission to individual membership should somehow be controlled by the "Affiliated National Societies." It was now becoming increasingly clear that sentiment had moved steadily toward individual applications for membership as the general rule.

Last, the Executive Committee approved the application of the Greek Society and voted unanimously and enthusiastically to hold the 1981 Congress in Athens.

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1975–1978

Nils Alwall, the new President and one of nephrology's true pioneers, understood perfectly that this was now a

time for the Society to consolidate its gains and move at a less contentious or frenetic pace. His tenure can be described as one in which he worked hard to improve the lines of communication between him and members of the Executive Committee. He more or less served as his own Secretary General and circulated 26 informal “bulletins” during his tenure, most of which were typed by him without the aid of a secretary. These bulletins were reinforced by an equally impressive number of hand-written notes and letters to individual members of the Executive Committee.

Several important issues were brought to closure during his Presidency. Alwall saw that each one was examined carefully and openly so that a final decision was accepted widely, even in the absence of unanimity. His term saw the final preparation of a new Constitution for presentation to the General Assembly at the Montreal Congress, negotiation of a new contract with Springer-Verlag that led to an increased share of the journal's profit for support of the Society, and implementation of means by which the linkage between the Society and the Local Organizing Committees of future Congresses could be improved. Further, the Society's financial accounts were examined for the first time by an independent auditor [76].

Under the leadership of Klaus Thureau, the single Constitutional Committee completed its work and presented its draft of a revised Constitution at a called meeting of the full Executive Committee (17 of 25 members attending) on November 12, 1977 at the London Heathrow Airport Hotel [77]. After thorough discussion and further modification, a final draft was approved and published in *Kidney International* in advance of its later presentation to the General Assembly at the Montreal Congress [78]. The final draft differed substantively from the original Constitution in several important respects: (a) it moved clearly to encourage a more open membership by emphasizing the availability of individual membership (Fellows) through sponsored application to the Executive Committee; membership would not be “elitist” or by invitation only; (b) for the first time, it was made equally clear that the General Assembly would be composed of all eligible (dues paying) Fellows plus two delegates from each affiliated Society; unfortunately, timely communication with the affiliated societies and the identification of their delegates would remain a logistical challenge for years to come; (c) the distinction between the Executive Committee, the Management Committee, the Council, and the General Assembly and their differing responsibilities was spelled out much more clearly; and (d) the contentious issue of the “coupling” versus “uncoupling” of dues and subscription was laid to rest finally by requiring that Fellows must pay annual dues “which includes a subscription to the Society's official Journal” [78]. However, the new Constitution also provided a pathway for

the Societies of developing countries to “order any number of the official Journals they wish at a reduced rate.” The journal would be made available to individual non-members and libraries at a full rate, to members at a reduced rate, and through affiliated Societies at a reduced rate “provided applications for the prerogative [were] approved by the Management Committee” [78]. Subscription rates would be determined by a Management Committee chaired by the President plus the President-Elect, Secretary-General, two members of the Council, the Editor, and the Treasurer. (e) Importantly, for the first time, the new Constitution required that organizers of a Congress must agree in writing to the resolution of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) regarding the free circulation of scientists. (f) An ISN Advisory Committee to all future Congresses was established to “act as the liaison” between the local organizing committee and the ISN, thus creating a new and required linkage between future Congresses and their sponsoring Society. (g) The nominating process was clarified enormously, although a system for the identification of those members of the General Assembly eligible to vote was to challenge the Society for years to come.

This new Constitution was much improved over the original version. It not only reflected the growth of the Society by emphasizing the category of individual membership, but it brought much needed clarity to the Society's processes and governance. Nevertheless, a fuller involvement of the new Council in society decisions was still inhibited by its infrequent meetings every three years, a fact that would not be overcome until later when the Society's financial standing had improved sufficiently to support interim meetings between Congresses.

The period 1975 to 1978 also welcomed John Moorhead (London) as the new Secretary-General. Professor Moorhead remembers that he first experienced one of the challenges of ISN management during the Florence Congress [79]. He wrote that “voting papers for membership of the next Council were left in large heaps [and he] noticed that many delegates took more than one of the papers” [4, 79]. Unfortunately, it would now be his responsibility to improve this undesirable situation.

Moorhead was acquainted with his responsibilities by Nils Alwall when they first met in London during the summer of 1975. One of the Secretary-General's many responsibilities was communication with the affiliated national societies. He later noted correctly that the “ISN had been set up with national societies in mind but without any concept of the enormous variation in the individual contribution of these societies” [4, 79]. He also noted that one of the Secretary-General's original duties had been the receipt and processing of new membership applications, but that the coupling of dues and subscriptions had necessitated transferring this duty to the Treasurer in order to streamline the process further.

It soon became apparent to the new Secretary-General that, in fact, the ISN was actually run by the President during that era of its development. Nils Alwall was a frugal administrator and, in some respect, he served as his own Secretary-General. As a result, the new Secretary-General found that his duties, including the relevant level of funding (US \$500), were somewhat limited during Alwall's Presidency [4]. Nevertheless, throughout his tenure, Moorhead found (correctly) that limited funds provided a substantive barrier to doing a proper job as he saw it. His duties focused mainly on communication with national societies; service on the Executive/Management Committees; consultative preparation and distribution of meeting agendas, background materials and minutes; logistical arrangements for ISN meetings at the Congresses; and maintenance of a record of all classes of ISN membership. He deserves great credit for the first provision of accurate minutes of all meetings, as well as his attempts to improve the balloting process at each Congress. When compared with the more visible financial responsibilities of the Treasurer, whose office also served as the circulation office for *KI* (and therefore became the repository of the ISN individual membership list), there were some who felt occasionally that there was a lesser need for the office of Secretary-General [80]. That feeling was perhaps heightened when a strong and active President seemed to assume many of the duties of the Secretary-General's office. Moorhead felt these tensions keenly [80], and the future would establish clearly that the need for a strong office of the Secretary-General was very real indeed.

Neal Bricker continued as Treasurer during the 1975–78 period. His office bore the major administrative burden of overseeing the financial affairs of the Society and, in addition, it had served as the circulation office for *Kidney International*, since the transfer of the receipt and processing of new membership applications (and dues) to his office in 1973. The workload was enormous and, for the first time, the Society had been able to afford a professional, Mrs. Mildred Howard, to assist Professor Bricker in his duties. Since 1969 Neal Bricker had provided a bulwark of support for the Society and much of the success of *Kidney International* in those early years was due to his commitment and steadfast support. De Wardener later referred to Bricker as a “tower of strength” during the period 1969–81 [81]. Among his many responsibilities after the Florence Congress was to secure tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the United States. This was finally accomplished in a letter from the IRS dated September 7, 1978 [82, 83]. Officially, in the United States, the ISN was now registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization whose assets were to be used exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes under Section 509 (a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code [84].

This action later required the addition of a section in the revised Constitution after its publication in *Kidney International*, one that required the Society to distribute its assets to an appropriate not-for-profit organization in the event of dissolution.

Kidney International continued to prosper during the 1975–78 period. Total circulation had risen to 4,996 by the end of calendar year 1977 [59]; member-subscribers had risen to 2,948. Total submissions in the same year equaled 311, of which 293 were original full-length manuscripts and technical notes [59]. Importantly, the journal's substantial profit for 1977 (US \$132,450) permitted the distribution of US \$66,225 to the Society's coffers [84]. This amount, coupled with the receipt of unrestricted dues (in 1977, total ISN dues were US \$48, of which \$37 was for a reduced rate subscription to *KI* and \$11 was for unrestricted dues), demonstrated that the Society was beginning to accumulate sufficient funds to support its growing number of organizational meetings and a lengthening list of possible new programs. Thus far, other than the journal and the Congresses, the Society's additional programs had been limited mainly to the titular sponsorship of regional symposia, usually with no or limited financial support. Some, but not all, of the Proceedings of those meetings were published as Supplements to *Kidney International*.

The Society had had a Management Committee for Journal Affairs, either officially or unofficially since 1972. Other than the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and the Editor, the Committee always included two representatives from the Council. The first two Council representatives were K. Thureau (Germany) and T. Orlowski (Poland). It was only during the Alwall Presidency that the Management Committee began to meet regularly under the Chairmanship of Alwall. In part, such regular meetings were due to the improving financial condition of the Society. They were also due to the steadying and unifying influence of Nils Alwall, who foresaw the need for a period of consolidation, improved communication, and attention to administrative detail and other organizational processes. It was Alwall who set in motion the negotiation of a new and more favorable contract with Springer-Verlag, one that would be brought finally to closure in late 1978 after the end of his Presidency.

The interim period of 1975–78 witnessed the loss of one important figure in the operation of ISN programs. After five years of service, Professor C. Craig Tisher (Durham, NC, USA) felt that the demands of his research required that he should retire in 1977 as the valued and talented Assistant Editor of *Kidney International*. Craig Tisher was one of those thoroughly reliable individuals who understood the meaning of quality, who was dedicated to high standards and who never missed a deadline. His contributions were central to the early



Fig. 10. Local leadership for the VII ISN Congress in Montreal, 1978. First row, left to right: J. Dirks, Vice President; M. Bergeron, Secretary-General; G. Lemieux, President; and J.-G. Mongeau, Treasurer. Second row, left to right: Councilors J.F. Seely, R. Barcelo, S. Carrière, R.D. Guttman and K. Drummond. (Courtesy of M. Bergeron)

success of the *KI* and he would be missed sorely by the Editor. Fortunately, the Management Committee endorsed the appointment of Vincent W. Dennis (also of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina) as his successor, thus ensuring that Tisher's remarkable contributions could be sustained. Dennis was a fine scientist and an outstanding clinician who could be expected to maintain and strengthen the operation of the Durham office.

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, MONTREAL, CANADA, JUNE 23–28, 1978

The Organizing Committee for this Congress included Guy Lemieux as President, John Dirks as Vice President, Michel Bergeron as Secretary-General, Jean-Guy Mongeau as Treasurer and Raymond Barcelo, Serge Carrière, Keith Drummond, Ronald Guttman, and John Seely as Councilors (Fig. 10).

Preliminary preparations for the Congress had been set in place as early as 1972, immediately following Montreal's selection during the Congress in Mexico. There was no official ISN Advisory Committee, but consultative correspondence with ISN Officers and Councilors was nevertheless carried out. In contrast to other Congresses, the Organizing Committee also served as the Program Committee and Editors of the Proceedings. The final scientific program included two plenary sessions, 9 state-of-the-art lectures, 14 workshops, 18 symposia and 44 free communication sessions. The addition of workshops was a new format for ISN Congresses and they provided a forum for the discussion of issues of current

interest. A record number of 1,748 abstracts were received and almost 50% were selected for oral presentation [4, 85].

Also for the first time, the Organizing Committee decided to publish the *Proceedings* in time for distribution at the beginning of the meeting. This decision required the submission of a manuscript in advance of the Congress by all invited plenary speakers, Chairs and participants in the Symposia, and Chairs of the workshops. Compliance was an impressive 95% or more. The submitted manuscripts were published in a single 761-page volume and presented to each participant (along with the Abstract Book) at the Registration desk in the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. The Organizing Committee was justifiably proud of this initiative and deserved to be congratulated for having conceived and carried it out.

The Opening Ceremony and various plenary sessions were held in Montreal's Place des Arts, Salle Wilfrid Pelletier. The several free communication sessions were held in selected downtown hotels. The Opening Ceremony included a one hour concert by l'Orchestre des Conservatoires du Quebec (Fig. 11). A Fête Québécoise was held on June 19 at La Ronde, a large amusement park built for Expo 67. On June 20, a special reception was held in a bucolic setting at la Maison Trestler, a Quebec manor dating from 1789. Finally, on June 22, a banquet for 1000 persons was held at the Hotel Queen Elizabeth [86].

The overall programmatic thrust of this Congress was perhaps a bit more "basic" than "clinical." Presentations on renal physiology, pharmacology and fundamental immunology were much in evidence. On the other hand, many of the Symposia included a balanced mix of pathophysiological and clinical content. Examples of prominent topics included: prostaglandins and renal hemodynamics, ammoniogenesis, cellular heterogeneity of the distal tubule, angiotensin and drugs which modify its production or action, experimental models of acute renal failure, immunology of transplantation, the kidney in pregnancy, interstitial nephritis, Type IV renal acidosis, and a presentation of statistical data from the E.D.T.A. Registry for End-Stage Renal Failure.

With thanks to John Moorhead, this Congress was the first in which a complete set of minutes of all meetings was prepared by the Secretary-General and kept on file in the Society's records (in contrast, Kincaid-Smith, as President, had been required to draft a copy of the minutes of the Florence meetings). The Executive Committee (as defined by the original Constitution) first met on June 17, 1978. Present were N. Alwall, G.E. Schreiner, P. Kincaid-Smith, K. Thureau, C. Johnston, P. Balint, D. Earle, H. Villarreal, F. Kiil, D.W. Seldin, G. Richet, R.R. Robinson, N.S. Bricker, J.F. Moorhead, and G. Lemieux. The final draft of the proposed revision of the Constitution was reviewed and approved. Officers and Councilors



Fig. 11. A view of the Reception at the Concert Hall, following the Concert by l'Orchestre du Conservatoires du Quebec, VII ISN Congress, Montreal, 1978. (Courtesy of M. Bergeron)

for the 1978–81 term were elected as follows (to be ratified later by the General Assembly): President, G.E. Schreiner (Washington, D.C.); Past President, N. Alwall (Lund); President-Elect, G. Richet (Paris); Vice President, D.W. Seldin (Dallas); Secretary-General, J. Moorhead (London); Treasurer, N.S. Bricker (New York); Editor, R.R. Robinson (Durham). Continuing Councilors would include P. Balint (Budapest), F. Kiil (Oslo), J.F. Morel (Paris), J.R. Robinson (Dunedin), G. Giebisch (New Haven), K. Thureau (Munich), O. Wrong (London), A.W. Asscher (Cardiff), D.P. Earle (Chicago), L.E. Earley (San Francisco), M. Goldberg (Philadelphia), R. Habib (Paris), R.H. Heptinstall (Baltimore), C. Johnston (Melbourne), and G. Lemieux (Montreal). Five new Councilors were to be elected from a list of 10 nominees by vote of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly met on June 19, 1978 for the principal purpose of approving the new Constitution. President Alwall accomplished this with customary dispatch, essentially failing to acknowledge a single query from F. Kiil (Norway) on the possible need for the President to be elected by popular vote [87]. The new Constitution had been six years in the making and Alwall had no intention of seeing it held up further through continuing discussion. Thereafter, all meetings were held in accordance with the new Constitution.

The meeting of the General Assembly also accommodated the Editor's Report to the membership. On May 30, 1978, the *Kidney International's* total circulation stood at 4,990 (including 3,017 members), and Robinson predicted that it would rise to 5,400 by the end of 1978 [88]. He hoped that it would reach 6,000 by the time of the Athens Congress in 1981 [88]. Of special significance

was his announcement of a new feature in *KI*, namely, the "Nephrology Forum" [88]. This attractive feature, a sophisticated clinical discussion of a specific patient or topic, had been proposed by Jordan Cohen, John Harrington, and Jerome Kassirer, all of whom were then located at the New England Medical Center in Boston. Initially, Robinson had been concerned that the insertion of the Forum would serve notice to the journal's "scientific" constituency that *KI* was becoming more "clinical" and thereby discourage continued support by those whose interests were more "basic." He need not have worried, however, for the passage of time established that the "Forum" had been an important step toward broadening the journal's clinical content in a sophisticated manner. Thanks to the dedication of its originators, it soon became one of the journal's most popular features. Robinson concluded his report by presenting a certificate to C. Craig Tisher for his many and essential contributions at the journal's beginning and thanked him for his commitment and support.

The Executive Committee met again on June 21, 1978. For the first time, this meeting witnessed the advanced preparation and approval of a budget for the succeeding year, in this case, calendar year 1979. It included the maintenance of a reserve fund of US \$100,000 if at all possible. The budget also included US \$3,000 for each of the offices of the President and Secretary-General and US \$17,500 for the Office of the Treasurer. Funds were provided for the purchase of excess pages and partial support of Supplements to the *KI*. At the suggestion of President-Elect Schreiner, the Committee approved the offering of an interest-free loan to the Athens Organizing Committee [89]. It was agreed that the ISN

would loan US \$5,000 at the start. When US \$10,000 had been raised locally a further US \$5,000 would be loaned. When an additional US \$10,000 was raised, a final US \$5,000 would be loaned. It was felt that the total sum of US \$35,000 would be sufficient to set the initial planning and organizational efforts in motion. If the Congress made a profit, the loan was to be repaid in full at the end of the meeting. This wise initiative not only provided a Local Committee with a modest source of initial financial support, also took a small step toward tightening the relationship between the Local Organizing Committee and the official sponsor of the Congress. Also for the first time, the Executive Committee authorized the allocation of US \$15,000 in support of travel and other activities of the ISN Advisory Committee so that it could meet and work with the Greek Organizing Committee. This action represented still another move to expand the influence of the Society over the scientific program of its Congresses. Simply put, it was meetings during the Montreal Congress that first witnessed the future allocation of monies in a reasonably business-like manner. The Executive concluded with an expression of thanks to Alwall for “his leadership and nurture of the still youthful and fragile” ISN [90].

The General Assembly met again on June 23rd where it was announced that J.S. Cameron (London), J. Bergström (Stockholm), F.C. Rector (Dallas), R.W. Schrier (Denver), and R. Glasscock (Los Angeles) had been elected to the Council. The outgoing President, Nils Alwall, then turned the presidential gavel over to the new President, George Schreiner, who announced that he had appointed eight members to the Nominating Committee for the 1981 Congress (Chair): P. Kincaid-Smith, plus K. Ullrich (Germany), M. McGeown (UK), P. Michielsen (Belgium), H. Villarreal (Mexico), J. Maher (USA), C. Kjellstrand (USA), and V. Sitprija (Thailand). Three additional members would be elected via a ballot that would be made available in *Kidney International*. In addition to the new President as Chair, the Management Committee would include G. Richet, J.F. Moorhead, N. Bricker, R.R. Robinson, D.W. Seldin and K. Thureau. Importantly, for the first time, an official ISN Advisory Committee was appointed to work with the Local Organizing Committee in preparation for the 1981 Congress in Athens. It included President Schreiner, J.F. Moorhead, V. Bonomini and G. Lemieux plus a yet-to-be-named member of the Local Committee [91].

The Montreal Congress witnessed the end of Nils Alwall's tenure as President. His taciturn persona, steady hand, and commitment to widespread communication did much to place the Society on a stable and less contentious course. His was also a Presidency that witnessed a beginning flow of dollars into the Society's Treasury, oversaw the completion of a new and more work-

able Constitution, and began the implementation of a more organized process of societal governance.

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1978–1981

The new President, George E. Schreiner, was no stranger to the affairs of the Society. As Co-Editor of *Nephron*, he had been involved almost from the beginning. His presidency would be marked by at least four substantive innovations: (1) the provision of interest-free loans to Local Organizing Committees as “seed money” in support of initial start-up efforts in preparation for a Congress; (2) the official establishment of Congress Advisory Committees as a point-of-linkage between Local Organizing Committees and the Society; (3) development of new guidelines for the society's sponsorship of interim meetings of various types; and (4) final negotiation and acceptance of a more favorable contract for the publication of *Kidney International*.

The Management Committee for Journal Affairs, under the leadership of President Schreiner, met with representatives of Springer-Verlag at New York City's Plaza Hotel in September 1978. The meeting was called to conclude the negotiation of the Society's contract with its publisher, to be effective on January 1, 1979. The rising circulation and profitability of *Kidney International* provided added leverage for the negotiation of more favorable terms and the outcome of the meeting was successful. The new six-year contract, effective January 1, 1979, provided for a new flexible allowance for the number of editorial pages (1,440 per year plus 10% if needed) and, importantly, profit sharing would be 55% (ISN) and 45% (Springer) for 1979 and 60/40% (ISN/Springer) thereafter [92]. Of equal importance was the allowance of US \$12,000 for editorial official operating expense and US \$18,000 in support of the popular “Nephrology Forum” [92]. Additionally, the publisher would limit its allocation of overhead expenses only to the direct cost of production. Throughout the meeting, the ISN position had been enhanced as Schreiner and Seldin played “bad cop” to the Editor's “good cop” relationship with the publisher [93].

John Moorhead, the ISN Secretary-General, assumed a much larger role during the Schreiner Presidency, perhaps because they had been long acquainted since Moorhead's time as a Fellow at Georgetown in the early 1960s. Moorhead served as a member of the ISN Advisory Committee (which met first with the Greeks in Athens in December 1979) and he had worked very hard to involve the national societies in ISN affairs. Unfortunately, he soon learned that the maintenance of up-to-date information on such things as officers and membership of affiliated societies was incredibly difficult [4]. It remains so until this day despite many subsequent attempts to maintain ongoing and open lines of commu-

nication. With the help of Guy Lemieux and Vittorio Bonomini, the Secretary-General also developed a standard application form for those who wished to host a future Congress. It was the first attempt to ensure that important logistical information and estimates of cost were known and appropriate prior to the approval of a Congress venue.

In brief, it should be noted that each of the above

actions was made possible by the reliable availability of financial resources, most of which accrued from the success of *Kidney International*. The Schreiner Presidency was the first in which each year witnessed a substantive and steadily rising flow of revenue into the Society's coffers. The Society's financial reserves would continue to grow and it would become increasingly possible to launch new and additional programs.

Eighth International Congress of Nephrology, Athens, Greece, June 7–12, 1981

President P. Metaxas and Secretary-General M. Papadimitriou had a difficult logistical challenge to overcome. The Organizing Committee was based principally in Thessaloniki but the venue of the Congress was in Athens. Nevertheless, the Hellenic Society of Nephrology resolved these potential difficulties in a relaxed and efficient way.

The Local Organizing Committee for this enormously successful Congress included as President, P. Metaxas (Thessaloniki); Vice President, G. Daikos (Athens); Secretary-General, M. Papadimitriou (Thessaloniki); Treasurer, A. Dimitriadis (Thessaloniki); Officers, V. Hadjiconstantinou (Athens); M. Pyrpasopoulos (Thessaloniki); M. Sion (Thessaloniki); A. Tourkantonis (Thessaloniki); S. Vafiadis (Athens); A. Varvarigos (Athens); G. Vounidis (Athens); C. Zamboulis (Thessaloniki); P. Zeis (Athens); N. Zerefos (Athens); P. Ziroyanis (Athens); and W. Zurukzoglou (Thessaloniki).

Yet another International Advisory Committee (appointed by the Local Committee) complemented the activities of the ISN Advisory Committee; it was comprised of H.E. de Wardener as Chair, with E.A. Friedman (USA), C. Giordano (Italy), A.C. Kennedy (Scotland), G. Richet (France), J. Traeger (France), and K. Ullrich (Germany) as members.

Close contact had been established and maintained between the President of the Greek Organizing Committee and President Schreiner, the ISN Advisory Committee, the International Organizing Committee, and the Presidents of different national societies. In addition, the Greek Secretary General had maintained a close correspondence with the ISN Secretary General as well as those of most of the world's nephrological societies. The Greek Committee was so efficient and well organized that over 600 nephrologists had been registered preliminarily during the Montreal Congress. The Athenian members of the Greek Committee assumed primary responsibility for managing the Congress venue in Athens as well as making the arrangements for the social program and publicity. The members from Thessaloniki organized the Secretariat, the Scientific Program, and the budget.

This Congress, held under the High Patronage of the President of the Greek Republic and sponsored by the ISN, the Hellenic Society of Nephrology, and the Greek Ministry of Cultural Affairs, was held mainly at the Hil-



Fig. 12. ISN President G.E. Schreiner addresses the Opening Ceremony of the VIII ISN Congress in the Herodus Atticus Theater, Athens, June 1981. Congress President Metaxas is seated in the background. (Courtesy of M. Papadimitriou)

ton and Caravel Hotels in Athens [94]. The registration fee for ISN members was US \$160 if paid prior to February 12, 1981, and US \$200 thereafter. A total of 2,652 delegates and 429 accompanying members attended this Congress. It offered 2 plenary lectures, 8 guest lectures, 15 symposia, 17 workshops, 39 sessions for oral presentations, and 9 poster sessions. Free communications (585) were selected from 1,748 submitted abstracts (of which 440 derived from the USA, 221 from Japan, 142 from Italy, 120 from France, and 109 from Germany). An additional 344 abstracts were presented at one of the nine poster sessions.

On arrival at the Registration Desk in the Wood Hall of the National Gallery just opposite the Hilton Hotel, each participant received a volume of Abstracts, a copy of the Final Program, and a copy of the *Proceedings* totaling 1,163 pages (edited by W. Zurukzoglou, M. Papadimitriou, M. Pyrpasopoulos, M. Sion and C. Zamboulis, printed by University Studio in Thessaloniki and published by S. Karger). Again, the Greek Organizing Committee achieved a “tour de force” by the advance collection and publication of invited lectures, conferences, workshops and symposia [4]. It would be the last of two such heroic efforts, first in Montreal and now in Athens.

The Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session were held in the ancient open-air theater of Herodus Atticus (Fig. 12), followed by a musical intermission and a cock-

tail reception immediately afterwards [94]. The program was perhaps canted more toward clinical nephrology than the basic sciences. An important socio-economic issue was much discussed, namely, the economic burden posed by the treatment of end-stage renal failure. The Athens Congress, categorized at first glance as “clinical,” nevertheless called out clearly for new directions in fundamental research relevant to kidney diseases. This need was underscored in both of the two plenary lectures, as well as each of the 8 guest lectures on renal tubule transport, structure and biosynthesis of the glomerular basement membrane, electrophysiology of the nephron, the natriuretic hormone, immunology of glomerulonephritis, newer aspects of acute renal failure, dietary treatment of chronic renal failure, and renal transplantation.

The social program in this remarkable part of the world included a number of outstanding events that only Greece could offer [94]. On June 8th there was a fashion show for accompanying members, and on June 9th, there was a performance of Greek folk songs and dances by the Lyceum of Athens. On June 10th there was a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Athens. June 11th witnessed a guided tour of the Acropolis and an evening banquet at the seaside Lagonisi Hotel about 30 miles outside of Athens. The social program ended with an opportunity for a guided tour of the Temple of Poseidon at Sounion on June 12th.

The Greek Organizing Committee received many congratulatory letters at the end of the meeting. Importantly, as part of the repayment package for its loan of “seed money,” the ISN accepted a sizeable number of volumes of *Proceedings*, which were distributed free-of-charge to medical school libraries in developing countries [95–97]. This action reflected one of the Society’s early attempts to incorporate the results of its Congresses into a widely distributed educational program.

The Management Committee for Journal Affairs and the Executive Committee met on June 5th [97]. Earlier, President Schreiner had invited Robinson to continue as Editor of *KI* for the 1981–1984 term, which Robinson had agreed to do. Nevertheless, it was at this meeting in Athens that Robinson also announced his proposed retirement from the Editorship of *KI* soon after the Los Angeles Congress in 1984. By December 31, 1984, he would have occupied the post of Editor for 13 years and he felt that it was timely for the journal to receive new leadership. It would be the incoming President’s responsibility to coordinate the search for his successor.

The full Council met on June 6th and received the reports of the Secretary-General, the Treasurer, and the Editor. Professor Moorhead reported that Los Angeles had been approved by postal ballot as the venue for the 1984 Congress, and that London was favored for the 1987 Congress. He also announced that titular ISN sponsorship of four regional conferences had been approved

during the 1978–81 period, and that two of the four had received a modest amount of financial support from the Society (US \$1,500–2000). An ISN loan of US \$30,000 was approved as seed money for the Los Angeles Congress, to be repaid if a profit was made [98].

Professor Bricker’s report was received with enthusiasm. After years of penury, the Society at last seemed to be on its way toward economic stability and independence. Incredibly, at least to those who had labored without the benefit of economic support, the Treasurer reported that the Society’s cash assets had risen to US \$418,000 by May 1981 [98]. Projected encumbrances for the rest of 1981 year were estimated at US \$60,000. These results were summarized on a single dramatic slide [99], which portrayed the growth of net year-end ISN cash assets from 1968 (~US \$2,500) to 1972 (~US \$12,500) to 1976 (~US \$33,000) to 1978 (~US \$97,500) to 1980 (US \$228,000). In the budget for calendar year 1981, a net surplus of US \$343,500 was predicted by the end of the year. This exponential growth was attributed mainly to the success of *Kidney International*. The Society’s penury was coming to an end!

The Editor’s Report revealed that total circulation stood at 6,159 at the end of 1980 and 6,276 on April 29, 1981 (when member-subscribers stood at 3,871) [59]. For 1980, 53.2% of the circulation was in the USA, 22.7% in Europe, 12.0% in Asia, 4.2% in Central and South America, 3.3% in Canada, 2.2% in Australia/New Zealand, 1.6% in Africa and the Middle East, and 0.8% in Mexico. Total submissions had risen to 433 manuscripts (including those for Supplements). Total editorial pages had risen from approximately 65 pages per issue in 1972 to 139 pages per issue in 1980. The net profit for 1980 was US \$158,000.

The Society had become the recipient of an increasing number of requests for financial support of regional, national or international meetings being organized by others. Such requests were often acknowledged affirmatively on condition that ISN support was acknowledged in the meeting’s program. There was a clear need for guidelines to direct the expenditures of such monies (usually expended in small amounts). This meeting therefore saw the adoption of much needed guidelines for the provision of financial support to interim scientific meetings under full or partial ISN sponsorship [98].

The Council then elected D.W. Seldin (Dallas) as the President-Elect and R.H. Heptinstall (Baltimore) as Vice President, and received the report of the Nominating Committee for the Office of Treasurer and new Councilors. Fifteen names were to be recommended for Councilor to the General Assembly, of whom nine were to be elected. After 12 years of superb service (three more than suggested by the Constitution), Neal Bricker’s long and valued term of service was drawing to a close and a replacement would have to be found. Professor

R.W. Schrier (Denver) was chosen from five outstanding nominees. If needed, a transitional period up to 18 months (from the end of the Athens Congress) would be allowed to provide sufficient time for a smooth transfer of responsibility to the new Treasurer. Actually, the final transition was completed much more expeditiously.

The General Assembly met on January 8th and ratified the election of the following officers for the 1981–84 period: President, G. Richet; President-Elect, D.W. Seldin; Vice President, R. H. Heptinstall; Secretary-General, J. Moorhead; Treasurer, R.W. Schrier; and Editor, R.R. Robinson. Great and highly deserved appreciation was expressed to Professor Bricker for his nine years of service, with special reference to the constancy of his support on behalf of *Kidney International*. Neal Bricker's departure marked the end of an era, one that had witnessed the Society's rise from penury to relative affluence. It was he who had formalized the Treasurer's office as the increasingly efficient circulation office for *KI*. Even more importantly, in the early years when the Society's governance was often ad hoc and formless (a necessity dictated by infrequent meetings, unpredictable communication, and an impossible organizational structure), it had been his caring, wisdom, and dedication that had seen the Society through more than one crisis. He would be missed!

The new Council met on June 11th at which time President Schreiner introduced the new Councilors: S. Angielski (Gdansk), V. Bonomini (Bologna), C.W. Gottschalk (Chapel Hill), K. Hierholzer (Berlin), E.J. Dourhout-Mees (Netherlands), and J. Takeuchi (Japan). He then turned the gavel over to the new President, Gabriel Richet.

Treasurer Bricker presented the budget for calendar year 1981, which predicted a net surplus of US \$343,500 at the end of the year. His presentation was greeted with great enthusiasm by all.

President Richet announced that the 1981–84 Nominating Committee would be chaired by H. E. de Wardener and include as members M. Bergeron (Canada), G. Malnic (Brazil), M. Imai (Japan), A. Nizet (Belgium), L. Hernando (Spain), V.E. Pollak (USA), and A.A. Hasalballah (Egypt). As required by the Constitution, the remaining members would be elected via a ballot to be included with the dues notice for 1982.

It was at this time that Professor Seldin proposed that US \$30,000 should be made available in 1981–82 in support of Richet's initiative to establish ISN-sponsored postgraduate continuing education courses in developing countries [100]. Thereafter, US \$60,000 should be made available annually for such a purpose at the discretion of the President after consultation with the Executive Committee. The proposal was approved, and it was agreed that such monies could be used to support any of several possible needs, for example, publication of

symposia in *KI*, research symposia, continuing education courses in developing countries, travelling fellowships to Congresses, etc. Later, this amount would be reduced to US \$30,000 per year for postgraduate courses alone, as determined by the President. Nevertheless, this act represented the Society's first continuing appropriation for such activities, one that was destined to expand many times over in the future.

These actions (and others not mentioned) reflected the largest and most extensive series of administrative decisions yet made at any Congress. And, of course, they were made possible and facilitated by two important happenings: a new Constitution that defined administrative responsibilities and processes more clearly, and the growing availability of financial resources. It had been a long time in the making, but 1981 was a year in which the Society crossed clearly into a new era of activity.

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1981–1984

The new President, Gabriel Richet, had been involved with the Society from its very first inception in Paris in the late 1950s. His tenure was to be marked by two important leadership changes, namely, R.W. Schrier's assumption of the Treasurer's position with the transfer of financial and circulation records from Los Angeles to Denver in September, 1981 [101], and conductance of a search for a successor to Ike Robinson, who had steered the development of *KI* from its beginning in 1972 (Robinson had actually assumed the Editorship officially during the summer of 1971 and he had served as a member of the Executive or its equivalent since that time). Fortunately, Secretary-General John Moorhead, who had held the office since 1975, would continue for a third three-year term, so the new President was assured that the Secretariat would continue to operate without interruption.

It was also this period that began to witness regularly scheduled interim meetings of the Executive/Management Committees, all facilitated by the improving financial condition of the Society. Such meetings were held in November 1981 (Washington, D.C.), March 1983 (New York), and July 1983 (Paris).

Actions by the Executive Committee and Council in Athens had set the stage for at least partial resolution of another vexing problem. From the earliest days of the Society, one of the most difficult challenges had been the development of proper policies and procedures for the nomination and election of officers and councilors. The problem was clarified by the new constitution but the process remained difficult to implement, in part because of the international dispersion of the Society's membership. The assemblage of a Nominating Committee required initial appointments by the President followed by the election of three members by the general membership. The Committee then had to meet on two

occasions in advance of the next Congress. This meant that the entire process had to be set in motion well in advance of the actual vote. Planning was required if Councilors and Officers of quality and commitment were to be identified, and if internationality and balance among scientific disciplines was to be maintained. This problem was solved finally as follows [102]: As soon as the President-Elect was identified (six years before his or her Congress), he or she would appoint the Chair and seven members; nominations would then be sought for the three remaining members and a mail ballot for their election would be sent to the general membership as outlined in the Constitution. This ballot could be inserted conveniently alongside the annual request for dues. The Committee could then hold its first meeting as the President-Elect becomes the President at the next Congress, three years in advance of the Congress at which its nominations would be brought forward. The Committee's second and final meeting would occur just prior to the first meeting of the Executive Committee at the Congress itself. It was President-Elect Seldin who first put this system into place during the tenure of President Richet, well in advance of Seldin's own Congress in London in 1987. This process was an enormous step forward at the time, although later modifications were to offer still further improvement (thanks to the availability of financial support for inter-Congress meetings).

One of Richet's most important responsibilities was the identification of a successor to R.R. Robinson as the Founding Editor of *Kidney International* [103]. Robinson, "to whom the Society and nephrology owed much" [4] for the remarkable success of the journal, had decided to relinquish the Editorship at the end of calendar year 1984 after 13 years of leadership. He felt that the time had come to hand over the editorial reins to a successor of quality who might bring a new and fresh approach to the management of the journal's editorial affairs. He had invested much of himself in *KI* so that his decision was not without anguish, both for himself and for the Society [4]. He and Richet had had frequent correspondence about Robinson's successor beginning as early as 1981, and with ever increasing frequency during 1982 [104, 105]. This and other issues were discussed finally at a meeting in Paris in July, 1983. After an international search [106, 107], both Robinson and Richet were enormously pleased when Thomas E. Andreoli, then Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, agreed to accept the position effective January 1, 1985. Andreoli had earlier outlined his broad plans for the journal in a detailed letter to Richet [108]. As the recent Editor of the *American Journal of Physiology: Renal, Fluid and Electrolyte Physiology*, he was an experienced editor and the ISN was fortunate that he was willing to take on the task.

The continued success of the journal made it possible

to again seek more favorable contractual terms with the publisher. After several discussions, a new contract was negotiated during the 1983–84 period and approved at a meeting of the Management Committee in New York on March 10, 1984 (to be effective on January 1, 1985) [109]. It provided for a substantial annual increase in the number of editorial pages to 1,600 plus 160 (10%) additional pages if needed [109]. Later, it was agreed that even the additional 10% could be exceeded if necessary, and published abstracts could be excluded from the page count. Full financial support was secured for the Editorial Office and the production of the increasingly popular "Nephrology Forum." Further, even though the 1985 contract was for six years, it could be renegotiated at such time as the journal's total paid circulation exceeded 7,000. Although these contractual gains seemed substantive at the time, they actually reflected nothing more than the beginning of a continuing need for still further increases of financial support for the Editorial Office as the number of submissions and the accompanying editorial workload continued to grow.

Heretofore, the Society's dues consisted of the sum of the cost of a *KI* subscription at a reduced rate and an unencumbered amount for dues (US \$50 for subscription and US \$13 for dues in 1982; total ISN "dues" therefore equaled US \$63). In 1982, a doubling in the "dues" component to US \$25 was voted (total dues US \$75) on the grounds that the entire US \$25 was available to ISN programs [110, 111]. From this time on, the "dues" component would reflect a steadily increasing percentage of the total ISN dues.

Communication with affiliated national societies continued to be a challenge. An attempt was made to improve communication by asking each Council member to liaison with any society that wished it. Unfortunately, this approach was not effective either and the Society continued to search for better insight into the hopes, aspirations and needs of national societies (especially those of developing countries) in order to support their programs more effectively.

As noted earlier, the Richet Presidency also witnessed the Society's first formal entrance into substantively funded educational ventures beyond its triennial Congresses, the publication of *Kidney International*, and the occasional titular sponsorship of a regional or international meeting (almost always in name only but increasingly with modest amounts of financial support). The latter activity had been initiated during the Presidency of Kincaid-Smith and the imprimatur of ISN sponsorship had been sought increasingly as a form of endorsement by various meetings, perhaps as a sign of quality or internationality.

Now, however, there were sufficient monies to launch additional programs. First, and perhaps symbolic of what would transpire increasingly in subsequent years, ISN-

sponsored and funded (US \$30,000 each) postgraduate courses were launched in developing countries via the help of local and sometimes internationally prominent nephrologists. The proposal was first brought forward and approved at the meeting of the Executive Committee on November 21, 1981, in Washington, D.C.; subsequently, the first two were held in Tunis, Tunisia and Lima, Peru [4, 112–114]. Both were successful and well attended. With but one exception (R.R. Robinson), each of the several ISN speakers in Peru delivered their lectures in Spanish, a distinct advantage. Second, the sum of US \$60,000 was approved for distribution as US \$500 travel grants to each of 120 young investigators to assist in their travel to the Los Angeles Congress in 1984 [115]. Next, two years of Society membership, including a subscription to *KI*, were offered for the price of one to young nephrologists in order to facilitate their entry into the Society.

Last, the Executive began to consider whether there was a need for an international Fellowship program, an issue that had been first raised during its meetings in March 1983. As an aid to that consideration, a letter of inquiry was drafted by Richet and sent to all of the national societies in July 1983. The letter outlined the terms of the proposed Fellowship and sought a response and comment from the national societies as to the role they might be able to play in the selection of future Fellows [116]. It is interesting to note that the first recorded suggestion of a possible Fellowship program was contained in a letter to Secretary General Moorhead from K. Hierholzer (Germany) [117].

Richet also took advantage of his friendship with two Chinese nephrologists in Shanghai to organize an ISN-sponsored visit to China. He was accompanied by P. Kincaid-Smith and N.S. Bricker and their spouses. It was Richet's goal to establish a first dialogue and relationship with Chinese nephrologists, who later proved eager to join hands with the ISN. Since that first visit, increasingly strong and friendly scientific ties between China and the ISN have been established. Today, in the year 2001, there are no major geographic parts of the world in which the ISN is not represented.

NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, LOS ANGELES, USA JUNE 11–16, 1984

Professor Neal S. Bricker, who had attended the Evian/Geneva Congress and had been active in ISN affairs since 1969, was the President of this Congress (Fig. 13). The Vice President was S.G. Massry; the Secretary-General was R.J. Glasscock, and the Treasurer was M.A. Kirschenbaum. The Scientific Program Committee was chaired by Professor Bricker, assisted by R.J. Glasscock,



Fig. 13. Officers of the IX ISN Congress in Los Angeles, 1984. Left to right: S. Massry, Congress Vice President; N.S. Bricker, Congress President; R.J. Glasscock, Congress Secretary-General. (Courtesy of N. S. Bricker)

R.L. Jamison, M.A. Kirschenbaum, C.R. Kleeman, D.J. Marsh, and S.G. Massry.

In the "Preface" to the *Proceedings* of this Congress, Professor Bricker wrote that it was the Program Committee's aim to achieve the very highest level of scientific excellence. And so it did. The scientific quality of the meeting was superb [118].

All aspects of the Scientific Program were carried out at the Los Angeles Convention Center, which was a short distance from most of the Congress hotels. The "early" preregistration fee for ISN members was US \$225 and US \$150 for accompanying members. The "standard" fee was \$275 for ISN members and on-site registration was US \$325 [119]. The Congress was attended by 2,771 delegates, including 242 accompanying persons [4]. This number was not as high as had been hoped, given the outstanding quality of the program.

The opening festivities were held on Monday, June 11th, in the Universal Amphitheater at the home of Universal Studios in Hollywood. The festivities commenced with a California wine tasting, hor d'oeuvres, and an introduction to famous movie star "look alikes," and a tour of the Universal film studios (Fig. 14). The official welcome in the Amphitheater began with a great brass flourish by members of the marching band of the University of Southern California (Fig. 15), followed by official opening statements by President Bricker, the Mayor of Los Angeles, and a dazzling super-star celebrity show by well-known Hollywood personas.

The Scientific Program included a Presidential Colloquium on the future of nephrology, state-of-the-art guest lectures, 30 symposia, 24 workshops, 400 oral free communications, and 552 poster presentations (these 952 presentations were selected from 1,830 submitted abstracts) [120]. Many sessions at this Congress dealt with



Fig. 14. Gerhard Giebisch (in sunglasses), the first Director of the Forefronts Conferences, and Donald W. Seldin (USA). Karl Ullrich (Germany) in the left foreground and Mrs. Seldin (back into camera). Los Angeles Congress, 1984. Courtesy of D.W. Seldin.

outstanding considerations of the basic biological sciences relevant to nephrology, including regulation of the medullary circulation, immunologic mechanisms in renal disease, effects of various hormones on rat kidney, biology of the Na-K pump, and hydrogen ion transport along the nephron [120]. The program was exceedingly broad-based and inclusive so that it is almost impossible to identify topics that were emphasized most prominently.

One new initiative was a special exhibition of rare and ancient books relevant to nephrology that was organized by Leon Fine and C.W. Gottschalk [120]. An impressive social program included a Western Jamboree with barbecue and strolling mariachi musicians in the renowned Hollywood Bowl, a tour of Disneyland, and an ample opportunity to visit such local attractions as the J. Paul Getty Museum or the L.A. County Art Museum or shop on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, and much more! The President's dinner was held on the Queen Mary cruise liner, preceded by a tour of the "Spruce Goose" (an enormous plywood-covered amphibian airplane built by Howard Hughes, the American billionaire).

The Proceedings was edited for the first time by a group other than the Organizing Committee. R.R. Robinson, then Editor of *Kidney International*, assisted by five colleagues (J. Kokko, V.W. Dennis, C.C. Tisher, T. Ferris and N.S. Bricker) edited the 1,750 pages of the two volumes of the *Proceedings*. The text was organized in the format of a textbook of nephrology and two Tables of Contents were provided: one arranged the papers in a sequence that offered the best flow of content, irrespective of the actual order or type of presentation at the Congress; the other was organized by the type of presentation, that is, state-of-the-art lecture, symposium manuscript, or workshop summary. Thus, these proceedings, published by Springer-Verlag, provided a more conve-



Fig. 15. Logo for the IX ISN Congress in Los Angeles with members of the marching band from the University of Southern California who participated in the Opening Ceremony. (Courtesy of N.S. Bricker)

nient collation of high quality material than usual. Unfortunately, its distribution was marred by a disagreement between the Congress, the Management Company engaged to assist in running the meeting, the Publisher, and the Editor on the exact number of books for which the Congress was responsible financially. Many weeks of unseemly negotiation with the publisher were required before the issue was finally resolved, in no small part due to the collegial efforts of R.J. Glasscock [121–123].

The Los Angeles Congress received an interest-free loan from the ISN that was due to be repaid if the Congress made a profit. However, this Congress failed to break even, so the loan was repaid in part by the provision of a number of copies of the *Proceedings* to medical school libraries of developing countries. Acts such as this again reflect the Society's early interest in facilitating the advance of nephrology in developing countries. Parenthetically, it must be noted again that the first six Congresses (from Evian through Montreal) received absolutely no financial assistance from the Society.

A joint meeting of the Management and Executive Committees was held in the San Bernadino Room of the Westin Bonaventure Hotel on Sunday, June 10, 1984 [124]. Robinson reported that the total circulation of *KI* had risen to 7,020 by the end of calendar year 1983 (including 4,352 member subscribers) [125]. Published content (editorials, original manuscripts, abstracts, etc.) had risen from 94 in 1972 to 207 pieces in 1983. Total submissions rose from 119 in 1971 to 530 in 1983 (exclusive of supplements). The acceptance rate for original full-length manuscripts and technical notes was 37% in 1983, having ranged between 27 and 43% for the period of 1971 to 1983. The journal's total profit in 1983 was US \$217,748, of which US \$130,649 (60%) was distributed to the Society. Interestingly, through 1983, the ISN

had been the cumulative recipient of US \$671,320 from the journal's surpluses.

Robinson and Vincent Dennis, the able Associate Editor in charge of the Durham office, would remain in charge of the two Editorial Offices (Durham and Nashville) until December 31, 1984, and the Office would then be transferred officially to T.E. Andreoli. Plans for a smooth transition were already being set in place, some of which would require orientation and implementation in advance of the official transfer of responsibility. Robinson concluded his report by expressing his gratitude for support from Assistant/Associate Editors Tisher, Dennis and Amiel, the Executive Committee, referees and authors. He then introduced the new Editor-Elect, Thomas E. Andreoli, then of Houston, Texas, USA.

At the Council meeting on June 10th, much discussion centered around the arrangements for a new educational program, the "Forefronts in Nephrology" Conferences. Treasurer Schrier reported that up to US \$90,000 could be allocated for support of this new educational program [126]. The Conferences would be designed to accommodate an international mix of active investigators from within and without nephrology in order to expose nephrologically based researchers to scientific domains relevant to nephrology, but that were sometimes under-represented. Approval was recommended by G. Schreiner, seconded by D.W. Seldin, and voted unanimously by the Council [126]. Ike Robinson agreed to coordinate the development of the first such Conference.

The triennially difficult issue of arrangements for balloting at each Congress was again raised. This time, visible ballot boxes were provided in the Convention Center and the names of those wishing to vote were checked off a list of eligible members. At first glance, this approach seemed reasonable. Later, it was learned that several individuals challenged the fact that their name was not listed, and that the actual turnout of voters was small.

The design of a new International Fellowship Program was discussed extensively. This program, along with the "Forefronts in Nephrology" conferences, would represent the Society's major new investment in educational programs over the next few years. The basic concepts of each program had been developed during the Richet Presidency but their implementation would have to await the Seldin Presidency during 1984–87. R.W. Schrier was asked to coordinate the activities of the first Fellowship Committee for the review and approval of applications [126]. The Secretary-General would make the final choices from a short list submitted by the Review Committee led by Schrier [127, 128].

Dr. Glasscock reported that the expense budget of the Los Angeles Congress was almost US \$1,000,000. Advance registration had been lower than had been expected, perhaps because of scientific competition from the annual meeting of the American Society.

The Council met on June 11th under the leadership of President Richet [129]. De Wardener presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the 1984–87 period. Klaus Thureau was voted President-Elect, R.R. Robinson was elected Vice President, Claude Amiel was voted as the new Secretary-General to replace the efficient John Moorhead, and R.W. Schrier was re-elected as Treasurer. According to the requirements of the Constitution, 11 candidates for Councilor were selected for presentation to the general membership from 24 names brought forward by the Nominating Committee. Later, the eight new Councilors were elected for a nine year term from the 11 selected candidates: R.C. Atkins (Australia), G. D'Amico (Italy), V.W. Dennis (USA), J. Dirks (Canada), J.P. Grünfeld (France), D.N.S. Kerr (UK), J. Stein (USA), and H. Shigematsu (Japan).

This election of officers was perhaps the only one in the history of the Society that was questioned [126]. After the fact, it was said that the process had been influenced unduly by a belief that Presidents were required by tradition to alternate between Europe and the Americas. This belief necessitated the nomination of a person outside of the Americas as President-Elect and eliminated the 1981–84 Vice President from consideration. Such a custom seemed to have been true only from 1975 onward unless the Presidency of Kincaid-Smith (1972–75) was ignored, in which case it had also been true for the period of 1963–72. Much later, this unfortunate disagreement was resolved by a constitutional amendment providing automatic succession of the Vice President to the Presidency.

Traditionally, one of the main responsibilities of the Council had been selection of the venue for the next Congress. This meeting of the Council was historic because it selected an Asian location for the first time. The Japanese proposal to hold the 1990 Congress in Tokyo was accepted and the Council's action was presented to the General Assembly for ratification [129].

The new Council and Executive Committee for 1984–87 met on June 14th. The educational programs (travel grants of US \$500 each for the 1987 Congress, Forefronts Conferences, sponsorship of symposia in developing countries, and a new international fellowship program for candidates from developing countries) were approved. The total annual cost was expected to be US \$220,000 [130].

The Treasurer reported that the Society's net balance on April 30, 1984 was US \$844,854. Projected income for 1985 was \$572,500 and projected expenses were \$567,500 [130]. Quite a change from earlier years!

Drs. V. Bonomini and J. Dirks were asked to join the Management Committee as representatives of the Council, and Dirks was also appointed as Chair of the 1987–90 Nominating Committee. He was joined later by O. Better (Israel), A. Clarkson (Australia), W. Couser (USA), J.P. Grünfeld (France), K. Hierholzer (Germany),

D.N.S. Kerr (UK), C. Mion (France), Y. Orita (Japan), C.C. Tisher (USA) and G. Whittumbury (Venezuela) [131].

Several issues were considered: the solicitation of materials for deposit in the Society's archives (C.W. Gottschalk had proposed the establishment of an ISN archive and had agreed to serve as the Society's first archivist); whether or not *KI* should be distributed for free to countries whose political or monetary policies prohibited the purchase of the journal; the need to ensure international representation at the Forefront Conferences; and approaches to the solicitation of papers from authors in developing countries (and provision of editorial assistance, if desired). All of these topics reflected once again the Society's early and evolving interest in the needs of developing countries.

The ISN Advisory Committee for the Tenth Congress in London would include D.W. Seldin as Chair with Claude Amiel (France), J.S. Cameron and F.J. Goodwin (representing the Local Committee), R.J. Glasscock (USA), R.R. Robinson (USA), J. Rodicio (Spain), R.W. Schrier (USA), K. Ullrich (Germany), and K. Thureau (Germany) [131].

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1984–1987

The Presidency of Donald W. Seldin was initiated officially in London on September 3–4, 1984, with an on-site meeting of the ISN Advisory Committee and the leadership of the London Congress (Professors J.S. Cameron, A.W. Asscher, D.N.S. Kerr, D.K. Peters, and Drs. F.J. Goodwin and N.F. Jones) [132]. The Advisory Committee toured the proposed site of the Congress (the Barbican Center) and reviewed the preliminary plans for a meeting that was still three years distant. One thorny issue was discussed extensively, namely, the handling of satellite conferences that were becoming increasingly popular. The local Organizing Committee was concerned lest such meetings be detrimental to the main Congress. The Advisory Committee suggested that it was unrealistic to prevent the establishment of satellite meetings, but that every effort should be made to see that they were held after the Congress, rather than before. In return for such collaboration, each satellite conference could display the Congress logo and an announcement of the Conference would be included in regular Congress mailings.

The ISN agreed to provide a matching loan of US \$30,000 (in two payments of \$15,000 each) to the Congress as funds were raised locally, and \$60,000 would be set aside for ISN travel grants for young nephrologists (below the age of 35) to attend the Congress. Initially, these travel grants were made available to candidates from all countries, developed or not. Later, they would be diverted increasingly in support of candidates from developing countries. Overall, the Advisory Committee

was heartened by the organization and advance preparations of the local Committee. A subsequent follow-up meeting was held in September 1985, where most time was given to the structure and content of the program, the satellite meetings, publication of the *Proceedings*, and arrangements for ISN business during the Congress [133].

The first interim meetings of the Executive and Management Committees were held on December 7, 1984 [134]. The provision of a travel grant in support of the London Congress was confirmed (although the age of eligibility was increased to age 40). A great deal of attention was paid to the policies and management of the developing ISN Fellowship. The program was still in its infancy and the eligibility criteria and program design were evolving. However, from the beginning, a great deal of emphasis was placed on the development of a process that would ensure a return of the Fellow to his or her home country. A one-year training program with an opportunity for a second year of training was envisioned and a small committee consisting of R.W. Schrier (USA), H. de Wardener (UK) and J.M. Idatte (France) was appointed to review all applications. A ranked order of preference would then be submitted to Secretary-General Amiel for final action. Eighteen requests for application forms had thus far been received by Secretary-General Amiel; unfortunately, only two had been followed by the receipt of completed applications. At this early point in the development of the program, many applicants failed to satisfy the program's desired objectives in that they derived from already well-established nephrologists. Greater emphasis on communicating the intent and design of the program would soon follow.

T.E. Andreoli, as the new Editor of *KI*, reported on the successful transfer of the editorial office from Durham and Nashville to Houston, as well as his plans for a number of symposia and editorials. Much discussed was a recent communication from Springer-Verlag which suggested that prior estimates of journal profit for 1984 would be reduced by at least 50% to US \$60,000, due partly it was said, to decreased advertising revenue and the increased cost of the "Nephrology Forum." The Editor was asked to indicate to the publisher that the issue was of sufficient import to perhaps require a called meeting of the Management Committee as soon as the final 1984 financial statements were received.

Several new traditions were set in motion at this meeting. An honorary lecture or lectures were to be established for delivery at each Congress and President Seldin would select an appropriate name(s). K. Thureau also expressed his desire to attract to nephrology the best representatives of relevant scientific disciplines outside of nephrology via the formation of ISN subcommittees in fields such as immunology and biophysics. Such committees could act as advisors to the Congresses and other ISN programs [134]. This discussion set in motion a series

of conversations that would lead eventually to the establishment of the first ISN Commissions.

1985

The Management and Executive Committees met next in New Orleans on December 15, 1985 [135]. Dr. Robinson reported on his plans for the first Forefronts Conference to be held at Pinehurst, North Carolina, on September 14–18, 1986. Initially, US \$50,000 had been estimated as the cost of this first conference, but it was likely that the actual cost would be higher if the new conference series was to be launched with a high degree of visibility. It was the primary purpose of the first conference to consider a basic scientific domain relevant to nephrology but currently under-represented among nephrological researchers. The chosen theme was “molecular biology” and the participants would include basic scientists and academic nephrologists.

Following a report by Professor Thureau, it was decided that the Executive should consider the formation of one or two “commissions” at the next meeting of the Executive Committee in 1986.

It was also voted formally to establish the Jean Hamburger Award for outstanding work in clinical nephrology and the A.N. Richards Award for outstanding contributions or basic research in fields relevant to clinical nephrology.

The Editor’s Report revealed that the journal was in good health but that the Society’s profit for 1984 was estimated to be only US \$58,000 (down from \$130,649 in 1983). Actually, the final figure for 1984 proved to be US \$76,000. Even so, the total circulation for 1984 had risen to 7,020 and the number of published pages had risen to 2,255.

Increasingly regular meetings of the Society’s Executive and Management Committees were possible mainly because of the improving financial condition of the Society. Such meetings were almost mandatory if the growing number of the Society’s programs were to be managed responsibly. Toward that end, since at least three members of the Executive were Americans, it became more or less customary to hold annual meetings of the Executive and Management Committees in association with the annual meeting of the American Society in order to keep expenses at a minimum.

1986

The next such meeting was held on December 6, 1986 [136], at which time the Committee received a report on the first Forefronts Conference from R.R. Robinson and then discussed the future format and management of such meetings. It was agreed that the program should be coordinated by a single person and that two conferences

should be held each year whenever possible. The Society allocated US \$60,000 per year as “seed money” in support of two conferences per year. Each organizer was expected to raise whatever additional monies were needed from his or her own sources. Opinions were mixed with respect to whether or not the results of future conferences should be published in either summary or complete form, or whether invited participants should be freed of the obligation to submit a paper by utilizing a format resembling that of the popular Gordon Conferences. Publication was not required initially although the issue would continue to fester for some time to come.

Two Commissions were created at the December 1986 meeting, namely, one on biophysics and another on the history of nephrology. Final arrangements for these first commissions were deferred until a subsequent meeting was held in March 1987. Last, K. Thureau reported on plans for an ISN-sponsored continuing education course in Cairo, the second such ISN-sponsored course to be held in North Africa. The meeting had resulted from a call by President Seldin to developing countries that wished to hold an ISN-sponsored training course in their country. The Egyptian Society had responded and was selected. The Conference was scheduled to be held in late February 1987.

The Editor confirmed that the journal’s profit for 1985 was US \$67,370 and that total paid circulation had risen to 7,941. Importantly, total submissions had risen to 675, including 505 full-length manuscripts [137].

1987

The agenda of the meeting of the Executive Committee in New York City on March 31, 1987 was limited to only three issues: the Forefronts Conferences, formation of the new Commissions, and the investment management of the Society’s growing financial reserves [138]. Gerhard Giebisch, who would soon be appointed as the first Director of the Forefronts Conferences, was also present (Fig. 5). The future direction of such Conferences was laid out: They should deal with a broad array of basic scientific domains relevant to nephrology, their participants should reflect the Society’s internationality, and they should be held in different countries as appropriate. Publication would be ad hoc according to any number of possible formats in order to share the proceedings much more widely. A Director would be appointed for a 6-year term and asked to submit proposed programs and their leadership to the Executive Committee for final approval. A search would be launched for a permanent corporate sponsor, an action that was unsuccessful.

Carl W. Gottschalk was named officially as Chair of the Commission on the History of Nephrology [139] and Isidor Edelman (USA) was designated as Chair of the Biophysics Commission, each for a three year term, re-

newable twice. A third commission on Cell Biology was also approved and Arvid Maunsbach (Denmark) was named as its Chairman.

The Society's financial reserves (with thanks to *Kidney International* and a larger figure for unrestricted dues) had now grown sufficiently to permit the investment of a portion of such funds in selected equity markets. The Treasurer, after prior consultation with others external to the ISN, was authorized to invest a substantive portion of the Society's reserve in a conservative global bond fund.

The inter-Congress period of 1984 to 1987 witnessed the implementation of several much-needed management processes, for example, regular annual or called meetings of the Management and Executive Committees. It also saw the launch of a number of new programs and the stabilization or expansion of already existent programs (such as the continuing education courses in developing countries each year). This period witnessed the first Forefronts in Nephrology Conference, the establishment of Scientific Commissions and the ISN Archives, and creation of the award/lectures at each ISN Congress (which Seldin named in honor of Jean Hamburger and A.N. Richards), the creation of a Visiting Senior Scholar Program to encourage established nephrologists to spend time in a developing country, and the publication of a new Directory of ISN members. Notable among these activities was the outcome of the ISN-sponsored course in Cairo in February 1987. Thirteen African countries participated and 10 speakers contributed from Europe and the USA. On February 23, 1987, a special meeting was held during which it was decided to establish the African Association of Nephrology and R. Barsoum was voted Chair of a committee to develop the final version of a constitution. President Thureau, Past-President Seldin and Treasurer Schrier, who had attended the meeting, had been instrumental in facilitating the formation of a new regional society, one whose formation was finalized in London in June, 1987 with the endorsement of representatives from 17 African countries. The African Association has continued to prosper since that time [140].

Almost all of this rising level of activity was made possible by the strengthened financial status of the Society, all of which could be attributed mainly to the success of the Society's journal and increased dues. Nevertheless, this period also saw the Society make its most organized attempt to raise monies from corporate donors in support of its growing list of programs and total ISN dues were increased from US \$75 to US \$100 (\$70 for the journal and \$30 for dues), effective for calendar year 1987. After a long decade of sometimes intense "growing pains," the 1980s witnessed the launch of organizational changes and programs that made the ISN begin to "look and act like a Society."

TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, JULY 26–31, 1987

Planning for this Congress was set in motion in 1981 when the ISN accepted the application of the Renal Association to hold the Congress in London. Its leadership included J.S. Cameron as President, D.N.S. Kerr and D.K. Peters as Vice Presidents, A.W. Asscher and N.F. Jones as Treasurers, and F. J. Goodwin as Secretary.

The Congress, under the gracious patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, was held in London's Barbican Center. . . . the home of the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Other nearby meeting and exhibition facilities were utilized as well, including those of the City of London School for Girls and the Chiswell Street Brewery (another first for the Society!).

The London Congress was exceedingly popular. Total attendance was 3,153, including 1,361 ISN members, 730 nonmembers, 396 trainees, 438 accompanying persons, 78 day registrants, and 150 guest lecturers, session chairs, etc. [141]. Seventy-four countries were represented, the largest number of participants were from the United States (749), Japan (129), United Kingdom (37), Germany (130), France (131) and Italy (132). Attendance from China, Eastern and Central Europe was limited (approximately 50 persons overall, of whom 22 were from Poland). There were no participants from the U.S.S.R. The early registration fee for ISN members was £295 (~US \$429), increasing to £330 (~US \$478) within five months of the Congress. Although expensive, these fees were only made possible by raising almost £80,000 (~US \$128,000) from outside sponsors [141].

The Congress was opened officially in the Barbican Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 26th, by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, Patron of the National Kidney Research Fund, the Congress President, and Lord Assan, Lord in Waiting, Department of Health and Social Security. A reception was held immediately after the opening ceremony.

A large Scientific Program Committee (almost 50 persons, including a few members from outside the United Kingdom) was chaired by Professors Kerr and Peters with C.G. Wineals serving as Secretary [142]. Abstract Review Panels were established in 22 areas of study. The formation of these groups, coupled with official meetings with the ISN Advisory Committee, reflected the determination of the local organizers to establish a clinical and scientific program of the highest quality. The final program included 18 guest lectures, 30 symposia and 30 workshops. A record total of 2,601 abstracts were received, of which 256 (8%) were accepted for oral presentation in 36 six-paper sessions, and 1,330 (50%) were presented in four separate poster sessions. The Abstract Book alone ran to 680 pages [141].

The format of the scientific program was more or less traditional. Each day began and ended with two simultaneous guest lectures in plenary session. The morning lectures were followed by workshops/symposia, which were followed by lunch and the afternoon poster sessions (without competition from other activities. . . . a good feature!). The program was one of the most broad-based to date, with a commendable effort to maintain reasonable balance among clinical and more basic presentations. For example, there were several oral sessions on clinical nephrology, three sessions on clinical transplantation, two sessions on hemodialysis, two sessions on clinical immunology/pathology, and one session each on acute renal failure, nephrotoxicity and pregnancy. In a more basic mode, there were four oral sessions on hormones and autoids, four on renal physiology, three on experimental immunology/pathology, three on the pathophysiology of chronic renal failure, two on mineral metabolism, and one each on renal metabolism, cyclosporine and lipids. This Congress was also the first to make such an extensive use of posters (50% of submitted abstracts), and it was emphasized that selection of an abstract for oral versus poster presentation had absolutely nothing to do with any judgment as to quality. Instead, the make-up of the oral communication sessions was determined not so much by high marks from the referees, but by the fact that together they provided a coherent and interesting session [141].

The results of the guest lectures and the symposia were published in a *Proceedings* edited by Alex M. Davison (Leeds) and assisted by J.D. Briggs (Glasgow), R. Green (Manchester), J.A. Kanis (Sheffield), N.P. Mallick (Manchester), A.J. Rees (London), and D. Thomson (Edinburgh) [142]. By agreement with the ISN, an extra number of *Proceedings* were printed and charged to the Congress budget for later distribution to developing countries.

This Congress witnessed the presentation of the first Hamburger Award to W.J. Kolff and B.H. Scribner by J. Bergström (Sweden). G. Giebisch presented the first A.N. Richards Award to R.W. Berliner (USA). In his Presidential Address [143], D.W. Seldin described the recent successes of the ISN: (a) postgraduate courses in developing countries under participatory ISN leadership; (b) the Fellowship program; (c) the program for Visiting Senior Scholars in laboratories or clinics of developing countries; (d) the Forefronts Conferences; (e) the distribution of the *Proceedings of the Los Angeles Congress* to libraries around the world; (f) formation of three scientific commissions and the archives; (g) establishment of the Hamburger and Richards Awards; (h) travel grants to attend the Congresses; and (i) publication of a new ISN directory. At least four of these achievements offer quiet testimony to the early interest and commitment of the Society to the facilitation and encourage-

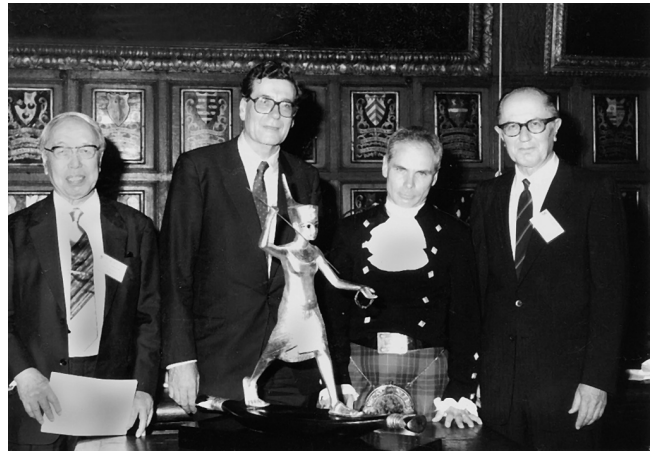


Fig. 16. Two ISN Presidents (K. Thirau, 1987–90 and D.W. Seldin, 1984–87) and two Congress Presidents (J.S. Cameron, London, 1987 and K. Oshima, Tokyo, 1990) at the presentation of a statue of Nefertiti as a gift of appreciation to out-going President Seldin. Photo taken at the President's Dinner, Inns of Court, XIth ICN, London, 1987. (Courtesy of J.S. Cameron)

ment of nephrology in developing or emerging countries, a commitment that the Society first began to set in place during the 1981–84 period and one that has continued with growing power until today.

The social program included the availability of afternoon tours on Wednesday, July 29th (a tour to Greenwich with an evening cruise on the Thames or attendance at a cricket match vs. participation in a Hyde Park Fun Run) [144]. In addition, a number of excellent tours were offered to accompanying persons for visits to exciting venues such as Windsor Castle, The Tower of London, Blenheim and Woodstock, Westminster Abbey, and more. The President's dinner was held in the magnificent old Middle Temple Hall in the midst of the Inns of Court, just off the Thames (Fig. 16). A wonderful Farewell Dinner was held on Friday evening, July 31st, in the Guildhall, set squarely within the Square Mile of the City of London. Few who attended will forget being greeted by the Congress President in his "national dress" or the individual announcements as the "top table" was introduced.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee on Sunday, July 26 heard an excellent report on the status of the Congress [145]. President Seldin summarized the Society's activities during the past three years and made special note of two ISN continuing education courses that were held in Africa: one in Cairo, Egypt (1987), and another in Rabat, Morocco (1987). Still another African meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1986 in association with the International Union of Physiological Sciences. As had long been the case, a number of other symposia or workshops were held under the ISN imprimatur (but without ISN involvement beyond approval of the program). Financial support for such meetings was modest or nonexistent.

The History Commission, under Gottschalk's leadership, would locate the Society's archives in Chapel Hill (NC, USA). Former officers were encouraged to submit their materials to the archives. Richet was working on an ISN history from 1960 to 1984 and planned to send all of his ISN-related correspondence and other materials to the archives.

The Fellowship Review Committee (chaired by R.W. Schrier until 1986 and by C. Amiel thereafter) was off to a fine start. Thirteen fellowships were awarded for one or more years of study during the years of 1985 through 1987. Last, 238 copies of the *Proceedings of the Los Angeles Congress* were distributed to libraries in Africa and Latin America.

Plans for the Forefronts Conferences were reviewed by Professor Giebisch, who described his interest in such diverse topics as cellular signaling, epithelial structure and membrane trafficking, immunologically induced inflammation, and optical techniques.

In instructions to the Chairs of three new Commissions, Thureau had provided a thorough description of the aims and activities of the Commissions, and the procedures for the future establishment of others. It was his hope that they would "*guarantee scientific input of the highest quality,*" and "*provide forums attractive to non-nephrological scientists so as to encourage a constant exchange of information on scientific developments*" [146].

The Editor's Report reflected the continuing success of *Kidney International* which, by now, had become the world's premier journal in nephrology [147]. For 1986, total paid circulation equaled 7,936. Total submissions were 607, of which 475 were full-length manuscripts. Profit for 1986 was approximately US \$50,000, a figure slightly lower than that for 1985. An increased profit of six figures was forecasted for 1987, in part due to the fact that the Society's share of total profit would increase to 65%. Nevertheless, the slow erosion of the journal's profit over the past three years was of sufficient concern to require the new President to explore alternative arrangements.

The full Council also met on July 26th [148]. The main item of business surrounded selection of the venue for the 1993 Congress. Excellent presentations were made by representatives from Australia, Spain, and Israel. Two ballots were required before Israel emerged as the chosen location for 1993.

General discussion surrounded the rising cost of registration fees at the Congresses, always a concern of younger nephrologists and almost everyone from developing countries. The Executive was asked to consider the solicitation of enhanced corporate financial sponsorship and increased allocation of monies for the provision of travel grants. Requests for increased financial support for various activities would prove to be a recurring theme from representatives of developing countries. Most felt

that there would never be enough money to meet all desires or requests. The Society's challenge was just how to leverage the impact of limited available dollars. An internationally based fund-raising committee, one of several in the history of the Society with variously successful records, was appointed to address these issues (Chair, R.W. Schrier). Officers and Councilors were asked to participate in this effort as well [149].

At a second Council meeting on the following day R.R. Robinson and J.S. Cameron were voted President-Elect and Vice-President, respectively [150]. The composition of the 1987–90 Executive Committee was thus confirmed as Klaus Thureau, President; D.W. Seldin, Past-President; R.R. Robinson, President-Elect; J.S. Cameron, Vice President; C. Amiel, Secretary-General; R.W. Schrier, Treasurer; and T.E. Andreoli, Editor. The general election saw the addition of S. Klahr (St. Louis), B. Brenner (Boston), D.K. Peters (UK), N. Sugino (Japan), and G. Malnic (Brasil) to the 1987–90 Council [143].

The new Executive Committee and Council met separately on July 31 [151]. President Thureau announced that the ISN Advisory Committee for the 1990 Tokyo Congress would be led by him and include C. Amiel, R.C. Atkins, R.R. Robinson, J. Grantham, and J.S. Cameron. The President announced that Paul Michielsen would chair the 1987–90 Nominating Committee. Other members would later include F. Epstein (USA), G. Giebisch (USA), R.J. Glasscock (USA), C. Johnston (Australia), N. Jones (UK), F. Kokot (Poland), J.P. Mery (France), J. Pena (Mexico), M. Popovtzer (Israel), and Y. Yoshitoshi (Japan).

S. Klahr (USA) and D.K. Peters (UK) joined the Management Committee as replacements for V. Bonomini and J. Dirks, whose terms were ending. Continuing dissatisfaction with the journal's profit led President Thureau to ask Robinson to undertake fresh discussions with other publishing houses for the production of *Kidney International*. The Nominating Committee, which had struggled with just how to assure appropriate representation from around the world since the adoption of the new Constitution in 1978, finally reaffirmed the Council's decision at the Los Angeles Congress. It declared that the President should first communicate with the Nominating Committee regarding his/her guidelines for the compilation of a list of nominees, keeping the need for disciplinary and geographic representation in mind. The list would be reviewed by the Committee three months before the Congress after discussions within the Committee by mail or telephone, and a final list prepared just before the Congress. The Office of President would alternate between Europe and the Americas "*unless there is a compelling reason to insert a candidate from elsewhere.*" A motion was made and adopted that the latter condition should apply "*until the Society is mature enough to do without the recommendation*" [152].

Thus ended the important period 1984–87, one that had witnessed the advent of numerous new programs. One could say that the period 1960–84 was one which first required a focus on the difficult issues of governance, organization, and finance, followed by the launch of *Kidney International*, and the earliest approach to the conduct of educational programs in developing countries. The period 1984–87 saw the earlier organizational efforts and activities and the newer programs blossom into full flower. Unfortunately, just as the Society's educational commitments were expanding, the period 1984–87 also witnessed a declining contribution from the profits of *Kidney International*, a circumstance that would require substantive future change. Strengthened governance and finances were making it possible for increased ISN participation in the development of plans for future Congresses, occasioned in part by an enhanced ISN financial contribution. Exchanges between the ISN Advisory Committee and the Local Organizing Committee in London had been the closest and most productive yet, and it was becoming clear that similar relationships would become increasingly evident in the future.

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1987–1990

The London Congress, one that had been remarkably successful despite a venue that was far removed from most hotels, was barely over before President Thureau convened a conjoint meeting of the ISN Advisory Committee and the Japanese Organizing Committee in Tokyo on September 8–9, 1987 [153]. The Tokyo Congress was to represent the Society's first Congressional visit to Asia and both Thureau and the Japanese were committed to holding an exceptionally strong first such meeting. The ISN Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Local Organizing Committee which included K. Oshima, Congress President; H. Abe, President of the Japanese Society; M. Hatano, Chair, Organizing Committee; N. Sugino, Chair, Program Committee; N. Honda, Deputy Chair, Program Committee; T. Nijima and H. Ishikawa, Chairs of the Fund-Raising Committee; S. Takahashi, Deputy Chair of the Organizing Committee; M. Takahashi and Y. Nagura, Assistants to Professor Hatano; and T. Watanabe of the Japanese Convention Service. President Thureau opened the meeting and Drs. Oshima and Sugino welcomed the ISN representatives to Tokyo. Thureau noted that he planned to hold two meetings of the Advisory Committee in Tokyo, one in 1987 and another in 1988. This, the first meeting, would be concerned mainly with a discussion of general items and the budget, and the 1988 meeting would focus principally on the scientific program. He requested the addition of G. Giebisch (USA) to the Congress Program Committee, which had not yet been formed finally. In contrast

to other Congresses, it was agreed that there would be no restrictions on satellite meetings, although a post-Congress venue would be encouraged insofar as possible. It was also urged that the registration fee should be kept as low as possible (lower than in London if at all possible) and that the cost of social events should not be included, but priced and offered separately. In part, it was the strength of the Japanese yen that led to great concern about the potential magnitude of the registration fee. In 1981, when it was decided to hold the 1990 Congress in Tokyo, the yen stood at approximately 250 to the US dollar and a registration fee of ¥85,000 (US \$350) was thought possible. Now, in 1987, even with a lower registration fee of ¥70,000, the exchange rate was such (¥140:US \$1.00) that the dollar equivalent would rise to US \$500. Fluctuations in currency exchange always posed a major potential challenge to the organization of an international Congress, especially when venue commitments were made far in advance. Japan was no exception. Overall, the ISN Advisory Committee was much impressed by the vigor, quality, and commitment of the Japanese Organizing Committee.

The Executive Committee met in Washington, D.C. on December 13, 1987, again coincident with the annual meeting of the American Society [154]. Concern about the size of the journal's bottom-line continued even though T.E. Andreoli reported that estimated profit for 1988 would be larger than once projected. Nevertheless, the growing breadth and depth of the society's programs gave a sense of added urgency to Schrier's fund-raising effort in support of the ISN fellowships and the Visiting Scholar program. Cash assets on 11/30/87 were US \$864,652, a substantial change from earlier years but hardly sufficient as a prudent reserve in view of the Society's commitment to new programs. G. Giebisch reported that two Forefronts Conferences would be held: one on cell signaling and messenger systems in 1987 and one on epithelial structure and polarity in 1988. A Committee to study the nomenclature of kidney disease was authorized and S. Cameron agreed to serve as its chair.

One of the main topics of discussion at the December, 1987 meeting surrounded the future publisher of *Kidney International*. Even though the current contract with Springer-Verlag had three or so years to run, President Richet had earlier succeeded in inserting a clause during negotiations in 1983–84 that permitted re-negotiation at any time after the total paid circulation exceeded 7,000 [155]. Since the total paid circulation for 1986 had risen to 7,964, it was possible to terminate the existent contract with proper notice and seek alternative arrangements. President Thureau wrote an excellent letter to the publisher outlining the reasons for the Society's concern [156, 157]. R.R. Robinson was asked to continue his attempts to secure possible modifications to the current

contract, while continuing to examine possible arrangements with other publishers.

Tentatively, three ISN-sponsored continuing education courses were planned: one in Nanjing, China in 1988; one in São Paulo, Brazil in 1988; and perhaps another in Caracas in 1989.

1988

The second conjoint meeting of the ISN Advisory Committee and the Local Organizing Committee in Tokyo on October 31–November 1, 1988, focused almost exclusively on the Scientific Program [158]. After productive and lengthy discussions, all agreed that an exceptionally strong and well-balanced program had been established. Further, at least nine satellite conferences had been scheduled. The proposed registration fees, based on 1988 exchange rates, were slightly higher than those in London in 1987. Provisional registration had already been received from 1,159 individuals. The Advisory Committee was enormously impressed by the fact that seed money for Congress start-up costs had been provided by voluntary personal contributions from members of the Executive Committee of the Japanese Society of Nephrology! An ISN loan was not sought!

The results of R.R. Robinson's negotiations with selected publishers were presented to a meeting of the Management Committee in San Antonio on December 10, 1988 [159]. Excellent presentations were received from representatives of Springer-Verlag, Blackwell Science, and one other publisher. Each proposal was critiqued with a request that each should respond appropriately, if interested. R.R. Robinson agreed to collate the revised proposals and distribute them to the Management Committee.

The Executive Committee also met on December 10–11, 1988 [160]. The Editor confirmed that the total paid circulation for 1987 was 7,983; total submissions stood at 713. The total number of pages published annually continued to rise as well, having reached 2,355 by the end of 1987.

R.W. Schrier reported cash assets of US \$815,782 on November 20, 1988 and reviewed the Society's chronological commitments to educational programs [161]. Since 1981 when the ISN had provided US \$52,150 in support of such programs, the annual contribution had increased progressively to \$226,000 and US \$171,000 in 1986 and 1987, respectively, and US \$204,000 thus far in 1988. Cumulatively, the allocation equaled US \$872,000 from 1981 through 1988.

K. Thureau reported on the activities of the Commissions and expressed his hope that Commissions on Genetics and Immunology might one day be formed. It was at this same meeting that a possible relationship between

the ISN and the Acute Renal Failure Society (and other similar societies) appears to have been first discussed. It was thought that a Commission on Acute Renal Failure might be one way to achieve effective ISN alignment. Meetings could then be held in association with the Congresses. Others were fearful that such a decision might encourage the development of a larger number of Commissions, each one dedicated to a single topic relevant to nephrology. President Thureau had first met with representatives of the group interested in acute renal failure in November 1988 [162], and he agreed to continue his discussions with them in an attempt to accommodate to their wishes.

The Committee approved an increase in travel grants to the Tokyo Congress from \$60,000 to US \$90,000. If approved by the Local Organizing Committee, an additional contribution of US \$30,000 by the Japanese would mean that 120 grants of \$1,000 each could be made available (an increase of US \$500 each from the amount awarded at the London Congress).

It was at this time that President Thureau noted his desire for the ISN to gain admission to the International Council of Scientific Unions in order to facilitate the free flow of scientists between nations. Scientific interchange was sometimes restricted by national politics or policies and the Executive Committee agreed that everything possible should be done to minimize or eliminate such barriers. President Thureau would continue his investigation of this issue.

1989

On March 14, 1989, the Management Committee held an international telephone conference, the first such official meeting in the Society's history [163]. Robinson had distributed earlier his comparisons of the final proposals from the three publishers. After discussion, it was agreed that a "*continuing relationship should be sought with Springer-Verlag*," contingent upon the publisher's acceptance of certain contractual revisions (including their willingness to make an appropriate settlement of recent benefits to Springer due to fluctuations in international currency exchange rates and the publisher's unilateral decision to sell the journal in German marks in Europe and pay the Society in dollars). Among other issues, the ISN expected that 80% of a prior year's profit should be guaranteed for the following year and that the Society should have the option of terminating the contract on one year's notice. These and other issues were accepted by the publisher and a revised contract was set in place [164]. The financial impact of these discussions for 1988 and beyond was dramatic! For example, the Society's share of the Journal's profit rose from approximately US \$100,000 in 1987 to almost US \$350,000 in 1988.

1990

On March 31, 1990, the Management Committee met in Washington, D.C. and reviewed the 1989 Annual Report from the Editor [165], and considered the publisher's financial forecast for 1990 [166]. Total paid circulation for 1988 was 8,086 and 8,212 for 1989 [165]. The Society's share of profit for 1989 approached US \$275,000. Unfortunately, the Committee was again disappointed

by the 1990 forecast, which had been made to equal the 1989 figure only by requesting a dues increase. Continuing concern about the magnitude of "general expenses" led to yet another decision to communicate with the publisher and let them know that the Society would again resume its search for an alternative publishing strategy. The request for a dues increase was deferred.

It was now time for the 1990 Tokyo Congress!

Eleventh International Congress of Nephrology, Tokyo, Japan, July 15–20, 1990

The President of the Tokyo Congress was Kenzo Oshima, a notable person who had participated in the first ISN organizational meeting at the Hotel Royal in Evian, France, in 1960 [13]. Vice-Presidents were Y. Yoshitoshi, Y. Ueda and H. Abe. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee was Michinobu Hatano and the Secretary-General was Susumu Takahashi. Chairs of the Scientific Program Committee (which included almost 35 members) were N. Sugino and N. Honda. Its Executive Secretary was K. Kurokawa. The Fund Raising Committee was chaired by T. Nijima and N. Yoshizawa and the Finance Committee was chaired by K. Koiso.

The Tokyo Congress, which was organized by the Local Organizing Committee under the auspices of the ISN, was cosponsored by the Japanese Society of Nephrology and the Kidney Foundation of Japan in cooperation with numerous other Japanese medical societies [167]. It was graciously supported by the Japanese Ministries of Education, Science and Culture, and Health and Welfare, plus the Science Council of Japan and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, all of which emphasized that the Congress reflected a truly commendable national effort.

The Congress was held at the New Takanawa Prince Hotel, the Takanawa Prince Hotel, and the Hotel Pacific Meridien Tokyo in the Shinagawa area of Tokyo. The Opening Ceremony was held in the Hiten Room of the New Takanawa Prince Hotel on Sunday, July 15th, at 4:30 p.m. [168]. It began with sequential remarks from Secretary-General Takehashi, Congress President Oshima and Chair of the Organizing Committee Hatano. ISN President Thurau, in his remarks, emphasized that “*science can only flourish in an atmosphere of freedom of thought and expression*”: which means that science is also “*dependent on prevailing social conditions*.” Science therefore “*has a debt towards society*” [169]. He went on to note that the ISN must remain committed to high standards, to the growth of nephrology in developing countries, and the application of our increased knowledge to the benefit of patients [169]. An Address then followed by His Imperial Highness, Crown Prince Naruhito, who complimented all of nephrology on its many advances and discoveries since 1960, while expressing a hope that this Congress would again contribute to that process (Fig. 17) [170]. Congratulatory comments were then received from the Minister for Education, Science and Culture; the Minister for Health and Welfare; and



Fig. 17. His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Naruhito addresses the Opening Ceremony of the XI ISN Congress, Tokyo, July 1990. Courtesy of K. Kurokawa.

the President of the Japanese Association of Medical Science. The Opening Ceremony closed with a string quartet concert followed by an enthusiastic welcoming reception (Fig. 18) with a synthesizer and koto performance in the hotel at 6:30 p.m. [171].

Overall, 2,136 abstracts were received from 56 countries, including two from the Soviet Union and 57 from China [169]. Predictably, the highest number (681) was received from Japan, followed in descending order by 317 from the United States, 147 from Italy and 111 from France [172]. Abstract Review Panels were established in 10 major areas of study and the majority (95%) were selected for either oral or poster presentation. In general, as compared to London, abstract submission was less from North America and almost all of Europe, perhaps because of the perceived expense of travel to Japan. Fortunately, the reduction in abstract submission from Western countries was offset by a dramatic increase in submissions from Asia. Nevertheless, total registration in Tokyo reached an all-time high of 3,559, including 1,511 ISN members, 1,498 nonmembers, 198 young professionals in training, and 352 accompanying persons [172].

The Scientific Program was more or less traditional in format with 15 state-of-the-art lectures, 36 two-hour symposia arranged in six simultaneous sessions, 11 one-and-three-quarter hour workshops in two simultaneous



Fig. 18. (Left to right) M. Hatano, K. Oshima, Mrs. Thureau, and ISN President K. Thureau at the Opening Reception, XI ISN Congress, Tokyo, July 1990. (Courtesy of K. Kurokawa)

sessions, and 256 oral presentations arranged in numerous sessions of four presentations each [173]. The State-of-the-Art lectures covered a wide array of topics, ranging from the pathogenesis of glomerulonephritis to the molecular biology of hypertension to the molecular genetics of Na^+ /glucose cotransport to G-proteins and signal transduction to very long-term dialysis [167]. There were 1,778 poster presentations in four sessions [172].

An excellent *Proceedings* in two volumes was distributed after the Congress under the editorship of Michinobu Hatano with the aid of seven Assistant Editors: N. Honda, H. Ishikawa, K. Koiso, K. Kurokawa, T. Nijima, N. Sugino, and S. Takahashi. Its 1,748 pages, published by Springer-Verlag, included all of the state-of-the-art lectures and the presentations at each of the 36 symposia. It stands as a quiet testimony to the state of nephrology in 1990 [172]. In the "Foreword" to the *Proceedings*, President Thureau commented on the strengthened lines of communication between clinical and basic scientists and noted the phenomenal increase in knowledge since the first Congress in 1960. He declared appropriately that the *Proceedings* provided a valid "*snapshot of this process*" [174]. He went on to emphasize that it is now our duty to utilize that increased "*understanding for the benefit of our patients*" [174].

This Congress included at least two "firsts": one was an outstanding special historical exhibition on the course of medical history in Japan [175]. Included were several wonderful segments from the 12th Century scroll, *Yamai no Soshi*, an important Japanese cultural property. Also included were original microscopic views of Masugi nephritis. A second "first" was the commitment to see that almost all submitted abstracts were selected for either oral or poster presentation. In part, this policy was made to encourage attendance, but more importantly to facili-



Fig. 19. Presentation of the Hamburger Award to Frank Dixon by President Thureau during the 1990 Tokyo Congress. H. Sakai, who introduced Professor Dixon, is in the background. (Courtesy of K. Thureau)

tate the continued growth of Asian nephrology by the approximation of young Asian researchers with those who were more established from elsewhere around the world.

The Tokyo Congress was surrounded by a record number of satellite conferences. Eight were held in Japan and four were held elsewhere (Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, and Irkutsk, USSR) [176].

As was the case in London, another highlight of the Congress was the presentation of the A.N. Richards Award to Drs. H. Wirz, C.W. Gottschalk, and K. Ullrich by R.W. Berliner, and presentation of the Jean Hamburger Award to F.J. Dixon by Hideto Sakai (Fig. 19).

The social program included a President's dinner at the Tokyo Prince Hotel, a Governor's Reception at the New Takanawa Prince Hotel, and a Closing Ceremony and Farewell Dinner on Friday, July 20th where traditional Japanese music "shaku-hachi" and "tsugaru-jamisen" with incredible drummers was presented as entertainment [172]. A number of optional tours included a cruise on the Sumida River and visits to the Meiji Shrine, the Asakura Kannon Temple, and the Tokyo National Museum. Accompanying persons were invited to a tea ceremony and a demonstration of traditional Japanese arts such as paper craft, and flower arranging [177].

The Management and Executive Committees met on July 15th. Editor Andreoli expected to process approximately 580 submissions during 1990; the total paid circulation on June 30, 1990 was 8,012 [178], 50% of which was in the United States. There was a gratifying increase in circulation to central and eastern European countries, as well as Japan. The 1990 forecast projected an ISN financial profit of \$274,000 and US \$331,000 for 1991 (unfortunately, the publisher's 1991 forecast assumed incorrectly that the Management Committee would approve an increase in subscription fee to US \$75).

It was President Thureau who had first envisioned the formation of ISN "commissions" in special areas of study or service. Initially, he had hoped that such commissions would facilitate the linkage between basic sciences relevant to nephrology and clinical nephrology. Unfortunately, neither the Commission on Cell Biology nor that on Biophysics had yet been activated. Later, a number of Commissions would be established to accommodate a diverse array of special areas of interest that were far removed from those envisioned initially by President Thureau. In Tokyo, K. Thureau reported on his effort to form a new Commission on Acute Renal Failure, which would also include the formation of a disaster relief task force [179]. The first organizational meeting of this new Commission had been held on December 5, 1989 [179]. K. Solez was invited to serve as the first Chair of the new Commission [180]. Local representatives on this nascent task force were sought via contact with the national societies and others. Commission newsletters began to appear promptly in 1990. Despite this commendable interest in service, it was emphasized appropriately by the Executive that the new Commission should address scientific and educational issues primarily [181]. The Society's limited financial resources were simply insufficient to support a large service program, however needed or appealing it might be.

By now, the Society had sponsored five Forefronts Conferences, the last two dealing with lymphocyte activation and optical techniques. Impressively, during President Thureau's tenure, the ISN imprimatur was granted to 18 other symposia. Two ISN-sponsored continuing education courses were also held, one in China and one in Brazil; both were attended by members of the Executive Committee [181]. For the first time, the ISN lent its auspices to a symposium in the U.S.S.R. under the primary sponsorship of the International Union of Physiological Sciences.

Secretary General Amiel reported that the ISN had sponsored 33 Fellows during the period of 1985–90, 18 of whom derived from Asia, 20 from Latin America, 4 from Africa and one from Yugoslavia. Fourteen of 33 received their training in North America, 14 in Europe, and 5 in either Australia or New Zealand.

This Congress witnessed a large increase in the number of applications from young nephrologists for a travel award. Overall, 260 applications were received and 125 grants of US \$1000 each were awarded (of which 113 were actually claimed during the Congress) [181]. In part, this fine program was facilitated by the provision of US \$30,000 from the Local Organizing Committee and a smaller amount from the American Society.

The full Council met the following day and heard presentations to hold the 1996 Congress in Spain, Australia, Canada, Brazil, or Hungary. After two ballots, Spain was selected as the venue for the 1996 Congress [182].

Later, when it was decided that Congresses should be held every two years instead of every three years, the Madrid Congress would be held in 1995 instead of 1996.

Professor Michielsen, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, offered a constructive critique of the nominating process and the need for an inter-Congress meeting of the Committee at least one year in advance with the provision of travel funds if needed. He then presented the list of nominees for 1990–93. R.R. Robinson was confirmed as the next President, Stewart Cameron was voted unanimously as President-Elect and Robert W. Schrier was elected Vice President. C. Craig Tisher was elected Treasurer, to take office on January 1, 1992. The ballot for the election of 8 new Councilors by the general membership (always a problem during that era as the Council strove to achieve true disciplinary and international representation) included 11 candidates for the 8 positions as required by the Constitution (one from the USA, 6 from Europe, 2 from Africa and the Middle East, one each from Latin America and China) [182].

The General Assembly met on Wednesday morning, July 18th where President Thureau announced that the following individuals had been elected to the Council: A. Aperia (Sweden), E. Frömter (Germany), C.A. Gianantonio (Argentina), L. Hernando (Spain), L. Li (China), A. Manitius (Poland), T. Strom (USA), and C. van Ypersele (Belgium) [183]. Saulo Klahr (USA) would chair the 1990–93 Nominating Committee. Later, he was joined by K.S. Chugh (India), T.F. Ferris (USA), K. Kurokawa (Japan), D.Z. Levine (Canada), G. Remuzzi (Italy), S. Silbernagl (Germany), C. van Ypersele (Belgium), P. Verroust (France), J.R. Weisinger (Venezuela), and J.W. Whitworth (Australia) [183].

Treasurer R.W. Schrier told the General Assembly that the Society had established a prudent reserve fund of approximately 1 to 1 1/2 times the yearly budget, the interest income from which would be used to support the Society's educational programs [184]. The budget for each Forefronts Conference was increased from \$30,000 to US \$50,000, mainly to support the travel of bona fide young investigators who otherwise might be unable to participate. Over the past 9 years (since 1981), the ISN had increased its annual funding on behalf of educational programs from approximately \$60,000 to nearly US \$500,000. Not bad for a once impoverished organization!

President Thureau turned the gavel over to the new President, R.R. Robinson, who expressed the Society's thanks to outgoing President Thureau. He went on to declare his interest in extending the Society's programs into Central and Eastern Europe while also reviewing the purpose, content, and format of the Congresses [185].

The sole topic of discussion at the last meeting of the Management Committee on July 20th surrounded the Committee's continuing concern with the Society's financial arrangements with its publisher [186]. Particular

concern surrounded the recurring requests for a subscription fee increase, the most recent asking for an increase from \$70 to US \$75. Consequently, the incoming President was asked to draft a letter to the publisher in which the requested increase in dues was denied, while expressing the Committee's continuing dissatisfaction with the financial bottom-line of the journal and the Committee's intent to continue its discussions with other publishers.

The new Executive Committee met on the same day [187] and first expressed its thanks to Robert W. Schrier for nine years of outstanding service as the Society's Treasurer. Since that office served also as the circulation office for *Kidney International*, the improved financial condition of the Society and the growing number of programs meant that stewardship of the Society's financial resources had become an increasingly substantive responsibility during R.W. Schrier's tenure.

President Robinson then discussed his plans to review the format and content of future Congresses, including a still further increase in ISN involvement programmatically and financially. In fact, several informal and ad hoc meetings had been held already with representatives of the Israeli Organizing Committee and other members of the international nephrological community.

The 1990–93 Council also met on July 20th [188]. Most of the discussion surrounded the need to involve the ISN Council and the various national and regional societies more fully in the affairs of the Society. These objectives had been difficult to achieve for any number of logistical reasons and toward that end, Robinson concluded that at least three major issues should be addressed: (1) methods of strengthened communication with national societies, the ISN Council and the general membership; (2) enhanced support for the advance of nephrology in developing countries; and (3) an examination of the content and format of the future Congresses. Barry Brenner agreed to oversee an initial examination of circumstances surrounding the Congresses. C. van Ypersele and J.S. Cameron would also ask a European group to examine the format and content of the Congresses; L. Li, R. Atkins and R.W. Schrier would do the same for Asia. A membership survey would be conducted by President Robinson to ascertain the views of the general membership on the Congresses and other matters. Robert Atkins and John Dirks were asked to look at methods of enhanced communication with the membership (including nonmember nephrologists). Predictably, future consideration of these matters would lead to suggested changes in other areas, not the least of which would include a strategic re-examination of the society's mission, goals, and objectives.

The new President, R.R. Robinson, closed the meeting by approving the expenditure of up to US \$10,000 in support of an interim (1992) meeting of the Nominating

Committee. He expressed his desire to involve the Council and the membership more closely in ISN affairs and felt that the format and content of the Congresses should be examined to ensure that they remained fresh and responsive to changing needs. He announced the creation of four new ad hoc committees: one on programs, one on communication, another on programs for emerging countries, and one on the Congresses. He welcomed input from the membership.

The period of 1987–90 had been important for several reasons. It witnessed the Society's first Asian Congress, an event that prospered greatly from strong leadership by the Local Committee, President Thureau, and the ISN Advisory Committee. The Society was wielding an increasingly active role in determination of the scientific content of Congress programs. The period of 1987–90 was marked also by troubling differences with the publisher on financial issues, a circumstance that the President and the Executive Committee worked tirelessly to resolve without success. But more importantly, it also witnessed the expansion of the Society's educational programs, and first overtures to the International Union of Physiological Sciences of the International Council of Scientific Unions (now the International Council for Science) as a demonstration of internationality and a concern for the necessary freedom for travel by scientists across national borders. Finally, it saw the first establishment of four Commissions, two of which have continued to prosper until today (History and Acute Renal Failure).

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1990–1993

President Robinson felt strongly that it was time, after 30 years, to stand back and conduct an in-depth examination of the ISN mission and its current programs and ask whether or not changes, additions, or deletions were in order. He hoped to involve the Council and the membership in that process more fully. Several informal and preliminary ad hoc discussions on the nature and future of ISN programs and Congresses were held as early as 1989, including those held during a visit to Israel in November 1989, another in Washington, D.C. in December 1989, and yet another during the Tokyo Congress. It was evident that the ISN Congresses had been initiated in 1960 with a clear purpose in mind, namely the enhancement of international scientific communication and the promotion of "networking" among a diverse constituency with common interests in science relevant to the kidney. The Congress format was then timely because there were few national or regional societies and the international scientific community was less well acquainted than had become the case in 1989–90. But times had changed since 1960! By 1990 there were many and frequent international meetings and a growing number of nephrological journals. Many felt that the ISN Con-

gresses did not provide an optimal venue for the first presentation of original research (in part because of their infrequency). Increasingly, at least in developed countries, they were viewed as a forum for scientific and clinical updates and continuing education in association with fine social events and an opportunity for travel. They were even less attractive for many basic scientists whose fields of relevant interest lay outside the purview of mainstream nephrology. This is not to say that continuing education is unimportant or that the content of Congress programs was anything but high in quality, only that it was timely to ask whether or not their desired purpose was being served. The issues were outlined fully in a Memorandum from Robinson to the officers and Council dated November 6, 1990 [189].

A number of ideas and suggestions had surfaced during those early unofficial discussions, including issues of purpose, content, format, timing and frequency. Almost everyone seemed to agree that the issues (and others unrelated to the Congresses) were deserving of consideration. Accordingly, at the end of the Tokyo Congress, B. Brenner agreed to Chair an ad hoc retreat of selected ISN members (including councilors and noncouncilors) to consider the purpose, frequency, content and format of future Congresses. The meeting was held in Toronto on November 2–3, 1990, and several interesting recommendations were brought forward [190]: (a) a belief that the content and format should be complimentary or supplementary to meetings of large or regional societies and held in association with them; (b) that each Congress should provide an in-depth exploration of themes organized by world experts; (c) that attendance should be encouraged by the acceptance of all submitted abstracts; (d) that there should be national society sponsorship of lectures and travel awards; (e) that many more travel grants should be provided to young investigators; (f) that corporate support should be sought aggressively; (g) that formal sessions with the leadership of national societies should be held to discuss the needs of developing nations; (h) that the desirability of an “adopted country” program should be explored; and (i) above all, that dues and the registration fee at Congresses should be kept as low as possible. Importantly, a number of arguments were raised in favor of biennial rather than triennial Congresses. Many of these and other suggestions had been raised in previous preliminary meetings between ISN and Israeli representatives, as well as during informal conversations with others, but the Toronto retreat was the first attempt to characterize them in an organized fashion.

These issues were discussed again at a meeting of the Executive Committee in Washington, D.C. on December 2, 1990 [191]. B.M. Brenner emphasized in his report that the highest priority should be given to the use of “themes” at the Jerusalem Congress, the establishment

of a parallel program in continuing medical education, the creation of a standing Program Committee, and changing the frequency of the Congresses to every two years. The “theme” concept was discussed fully. Originally, it was felt that the attractiveness of a major meeting would be enhanced if its content was confined almost exclusively to perhaps five themes or major topics, each one of which could be addressed in great depth over a three to four day period. Ideally, the content of each theme would flow progressively from relevant basic science to clinical science to clinical application. Almost no major meeting addressed any major topic in great depth. At best, most subjects were the recipient of a major lecture, a symposium or two, and a workshop. Or, said in another way, most Congressional content was broad-based and offered a “little bit” of everything in order to accommodate the widespread interests of the nephrological community. It was felt that participation in a thematic meeting could be maintained if the themes were chosen carefully so that a broad range of interests could be represented. No action was taken but the report was received favorably.

Other items were considered as well at the December meeting of the Executive Committee. Professor Giebisch reported that three Forefronts Conferences would be held in 1991. It was then suggested that a Forefronts Conference would not be held in 1993 in order to release monies for possible support of the new format for the Jerusalem Congress. An increased financial contribution would ensure substantive input into the design of the program and continue to expand the Society’s growing influence over its own Congresses. An ongoing discussion on the desirability, or lack thereof, of publishing the Forefronts Conferences in some form in order to extend their benefit to the general membership concluded with a suggestion that a person might be paid to write a review of each Conference for publication in *Kidney International*.

Professor Thurau was asked once again to chair a small Committee to review the 1978 Constitution and By-Laws and ask if any changes were indicated. A number of possible changes had been suggested, with special emphasis on the structure of the nominating process, a long-time thorny issue.

In late 1990, the Executive Committee was consumed by discussions on the possible need for a contingency plan in the event that political and military events in the Middle East made it unwise to hold the 1993 Congress in Jerusalem [191]. Iraq had invaded Kuwait earlier in 1990 and a multinational military force was then being assembled in Saudi Arabia. Tensions were high in the region. Australia or Canada were discussed as possible alternative sites. A preliminary site visit to Toronto had been hosted by J. Dirks and made by President Robinson. After extensive and sometimes emotional discus-

sion, it was agreed to solicit alternative proposals as soon as possible from Canada, Australia and Israel (for possibly holding the meeting in a venue other than Israel). A final decision on an alternative site would be deferred until April 30, 1991 [191]. Israel would be given priority to hold a Congress at a later date in the event that the 1993 Congress was not held in Jerusalem [192].

This meeting also witnessed a sizeable number of important administrative actions and mileposts: (a) reserves of more than \$1.0 million (net of monies due to the Society's publisher for *KI* subscriptions); (b) an announcement that the American Society of Nephrology would sponsor four ISN-chosen Fellows in the steady-state, as well as the cost and content of a Symposium at the Jerusalem Congress; (c) provision of an interest-free loan of US \$50,000 to the 1993 Congress; (d) an increase of the ISN Fellowship stipend to US \$20,000; and (e) the receipt of \$30,000 from the profit of the Tokyo Congress, a fine voluntary gesture from the Japanese Organizing Committee that reflected their commitment to a profitable Tokyo Congress, both scientifically and financially [193]. H. Shigematsu (Japan), who had recently resigned from the Council, was replaced by K. Kurokawa (Japan) for the rest of his term [194].

The Management Committee met on November 30, 1990, and President Robinson reviewed the status of many past discussions with various publishers and the most recent financial comparisons between Springer-Verlag and Blackwell Science [191]. The Committee then met with representatives of Blackwell Science for final discussion of policies related to advertising, overhead charges, reprint rates, proof reading, and other redaction issues. Later it was voted to place *KI* with Blackwell effective January 1, 1992, and to so notify Springer-Verlag [191]. It was not without regret that a 20-year relationship with Springer-Verlag was brought to an end. Setting aside the nature and causes of financial disagreement, *KI* had nevertheless grown and prospered during the long relationship with Springer-Verlag. There were few complaints in the broad area of journal production and distribution.

Kidney International would publish 218 full-length manuscripts in 1990, almost a 50% increase since 1980 [195]. As of October 31, 1990, total paid circulation stood at 8,660, including 6,236 member subscribers and ISN profit for 1990 was estimated at US \$302,000. Blackwell Science could look forward to sharing in the stewardship of a sound and well established journal.

1991

The Executive Committee next met on March 5, 1991 in Sarasota, Florida in advance of an ad hoc ISN Strategic Planning Retreat [196]. The editorial transition to Blackwell was described and, for the first time, it was agreed

to continue the offer of a two-year *KI* subscription to trainees for the price of one.

Professor J.-P. Grünfeld (France) agreed to chair the 1993–95/96 Nominating Committee. Professor Nagasawa (Japan) replaced K. Kurokawa on the 1990–93 Nominating Committee, since Kurokawa was now a member of the Council.

R.R. Robinson addressed a number of administrative issues at this meeting, including distribution of a draft of a proposed membership survey and a questionnaire to be sent to the national societies. A list of possible programs in support of nephrology in developing countries was discussed, including the possibility of "adopt-a-country" or individual partnerships between centers in developed nations and those in less advantaged countries (one of the first recorded discussions of what would later become the ISN Renal Sister Program). The possible need for a management company to handle the Society's affairs was entertained again, followed by an agreement that R.R. Robinson, C.C. Tisher and C. Amiel would investigate whether there was an international company that might be considered. Preliminary plans were laid for a resumption of corporate solicitation. Last, and importantly, the recent end of the Gulf War led to an affirmation that the 1993 Congress would, after all, be held in Jerusalem.

The simultaneously held Strategic Planning Retreat on March 3–5, 1991 was attended by 11 members of the Executive Committee and Council [197, 198]. This Retreat was held as a follow-up to the earlier meeting in Toronto and involved several officers or Councilors who had not participated in the Toronto meeting. The retreat, which employed a facilitator, concluded that the Society's most successful programs had been *Kidney International* (including its "Nephrology Forum" section), the Forefront Conferences, the international Fellowships, the Commission on Acute Renal Failure, and the ISN continuing education courses in developing countries. The Congresses, once the Society's centerpiece, now seemed somewhat less attractive and were attended by fewer leading investigators as competition from a plethora of national/regional societies and meetings grew exponentially in number. There needed to be a clear need if any new program was to be successful. A number of new organizational structures and programs were suggested, including revision of the content, format and frequency of the Congresses, the creation of Standing Committees, interim meetings of the Council, enhanced corporate fund-raising, strengthened programmatic control of the Congresses, cooperative programs with national societies, expanded programs in support of nephrology in developing countries, and greater involvement of the membership in ISN affairs [197]. The outcome of this Retreat, as well as the meeting in Toronto, established a platform for renewed and continuing dialogue on possible

programs that would continue throughout the 1990–93 period and beyond.

The Management and Executive Committees next met in Baltimore, Maryland on November 19, 1991 [199]. The Editor's Report confirmed that total submission of all types for 1990 reached a record number of 733 (including 593 full-length original manuscripts and technical notes) [200]. Published pages in 1990 reached the highest number ever (3,110 pages), but a reduction was expected in 1991 because 1990 was the last year in which the abstracts of the American Society would be published in *KI*. The total paid circulation figure for 1990 was 8,760, including 6,427 member subscribers [200]. The Society's net profit was US \$287,000.

A request to hold a conjoint "Forefronts-type" Conference with the American Society was approved. G. Giebisch agreed to continue as Director of the Conferences until June 30, 1996 and their funding was held constant at US \$50,000 each (\$30,000 for organization and \$20,000 for the travel of young scientists).

Communication, long an ISN challenge, was addressed by an ad hoc Committee led by J. Dirks and R. Atkins [201]. Good suggestions were brought forward, many of which were implemented.

It was voted that Professors H. de Wardener and G. Richet would share the Hamburger Award and that G. Giebisch should receive the Richards Award in 1993.

Most importantly, after debating the advantages and possible disadvantages of moving the Congresses to a two-year cycle, it was agreed that the Madrid Congress would be moved to 1995 instead of 1996. The latter decision was reached following a commentary by Robinson on the proposed "thematic" content and format for the program of the Jerusalem Congress. He regarded it as an experimental format and noted "*that final judgment cannot be made until at least two or three meetings utilizing a similar format have been held*" [199]. He hoped that the ISN would seek new ways of coordinating its programs with those of other societies, while continuing to strengthen its commitment to the advance of nephrology in developing countries. He also noted that the Spanish Organizing Committee had been enormously supportive and patient as they awaited the Society's decision as to whether the Madrid Congress would be held in 1995 or 1996.

Secretary-General Amiel noted that 42 Fellowships had now been awarded since the inception of the program, and that they had derived thus far from 20 countries. A total of US \$10,000 was allocated in support of the Commission on Acute Renal Failure, which held its first Banff Conference on Allograft Pathology in 1991 under the leadership of K. Solez and L. Racusen. The Visiting Senior Scholar program was activated finally with an initial allocation of US \$50,000. An application to join the International Council of Scientific Unions

as an Associate Member of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) was to be submitted [202, 203]. The ISN was accepted as an Affiliate Member of IUPS on July 31, 1993.

For the first time in the history of the ISN, a meeting of the full Council (as defined in the 1978 Constitution) was held on November 20, 1991, during the interval between two Congresses. The meeting included detailed progress reports from the Officers and the local Organizing Committee for the Jerusalem Congress [204]. K. Thureau reported on the activities of his Committee (Thureau, Michielsen and Amiel) on revisions to the Constitution. If the Congresses were now to be biennial, it was agreed that the terms of Councilors should not exceed six years and those of Commission members should not exceed eight years. A vote of the full Council declared unanimously that a two-year cycle should be adopted for the next three Congresses (1995, 1997, and 1999) and presented to the General Assembly for ratification in Jerusalem.

The above action by the Council reflected an important change in the Society's structure and the culmination of discussions that had begun as early as 1989, including those at the two strategic planning retreats. Insofar as the Congresses were concerned, six prior meetings between the Israeli Organizing and Program Committees and the ISN Advisory Committee (chaired by B.M. Brenner) had led to the design of a program for the 1993 Congress. It was concluded that the traditional Congress format had served the Society well but that it was less well-suited for the future. An ISN membership survey had confirmed that view, while also stating that there was a need for much greater in-depth treatment of specific topics. Accordingly, the central format of the Jerusalem Congress would accommodate in-depth treatment and sustained exploration of selected topics or "themes." Each theme would more or less reflect a "mini-meeting" that would run continuously for three to five days. Seven themes would be offered and each would flow more or less naturally from relevant basic science to totally clinical topics. Each theme would include its own plenary lectures and symposia. The seven themes finally adopted at Jerusalem permitted the largest ever number of plenary lectures and symposia. They were to be complemented by a number of one-half to two-day meetings on more narrowly focused topics. Only time would tell if such a major change would be effective.

1992

Another first was the creation of an ad hoc Finance Committee at the next meeting of the Executive Committee on November 15, 1992 in Baltimore [205, 206]. Its purpose was to advise on the investment of Society's assets. In a continuing attempt to reshape the Society's

Congresses, President Robinson described his efforts to align future ISN Congresses with scheduled meetings of large societies such as the European, the Latin American, the Asian Pacific, or the American.

The full Council held its second interim meeting in the Society's history on November 18, 1992 in Baltimore [206]. The Treasurer reported that ISN travel grants to the Jerusalem Congress would be increased to US \$120,000, contingent upon a careful review of available monies by the President and the Treasurer.

The search for an internationally based organizational management firm was unsuccessful. The Society would have to seek other alternatives if it wished to consolidate its administrative activities in a permanent office.

Unfortunately, 1992 witnessed the resignation of Professor A. Manitius (Poland) from the Council for reasons of health [207, 208]. R.R. Robinson elected to defer his replacement until the Jerusalem Congress in 1993.

A Presidential contribution was made to meetings in Bolivia and Poland. The number of copies of *KI* for free distribution to libraries in developing countries was increased from 50 to 100, and at least one publisher agreed to distribute the same number of copies of relevant new books to the same libraries. The Commission on Acute Renal Failure in association with the National Kidney Foundation (USA) established a disaster-relief task force that was supported financially by a generous grant from industry [209]. The Commission would soon publish its pathological classification of acute renal failure as well.

The President closed the meeting by seeking input on two main issues then confronting the Society: (1) support of nephrology in developing countries; and (2) relationships between the ISN and national or multinational societies, that is, the issue of conjoint meetings. Discussions with the European Renal Association had been unsuccessful but those with other societies were active and ongoing, especially those with the American, Asian Pacific, and Latin American Societies. All agreed that the President would continue to hold such discussions.

At this point in time (Fall 1992), the ISN membership included almost 7,000 nephrologists from 91 countries. The array of ISN-sponsored programs extended far beyond the sponsorship of periodic Congresses and the publication of *KI*. Two Commissions were exceedingly active (History and Acute Renal Failure). The Forefronts Conferences had also been received exceedingly well. Nine conferences had been held since 1986 and preliminary plans had been laid to hold at least four more from 1993 through 1996. A conference in Japan was scheduled for 1994, the first to be held in Asia. Further, the Fellowship program was growing, the library enhancement effort was off to a good beginning, and ISN-sponsored continuing education courses were being held regularly in developing or emerging countries.

As an aid to the continued development of programs that would meet the needs of the general membership, a broad-based membership survey was carried out in 1992 [210]. A geographically well-distributed response was received from almost 2,300 members. The results confirmed that the ISN membership was truly international (about one-half were North American and one-half were resident in the rest of the world). Sixty-seven percent were less than 50 years of age. Sixty percent claimed nephrology as their primary specialty while 25% said that they were internists primarily. Only four percent claimed to be basic scientists. Seventy-two percent served as full-time members of a medical school faculty or hospital staff; fully 50% spent more than 60% of their time in patient care, including direct responsibility for hemodialysis. Patient care and hemodialysis represented major time commitments on the part of ISN membership. Only nine percent of those claiming to be involved in research were involved in bench-oriented laboratory research alone, and only 12 percent gave more than 60% of their time to research. The membership approved of past ISN Congresses but 60% of the respondents believed that it was timely to consider a revision of their traditional style, format, and content. Last, the membership offered a qualified endorsement to the support of nephrology in developing countries, most believing that the Fellowship program served that interest well. It is the latter commitment that began to receive increasing attention and recognition as an effort unique to the ISN, and one in which its membership could take increasing pride.

In summary, the period of 1990–93 was characterized by the continuing growth of already existent programs alongside the implementation of several new efforts. Principal among the latter was an evaluation of each of the Society's programs; a major focus on revision of the content, format and frequency of future Congresses and their approximation alongside the scheduled meetings of other societies; the completion of appropriate modifications to the 1978 Constitution and By-Laws; implementation of the Visiting Scholar program; early efforts to involve the Council more fully and often in ISN deliberations and programs; and an escalating recognition of needed initiatives in developing countries.

TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, JUNE 13–18, 1993

The leadership of the Jerusalem Congress included J.B. Rosenfeld, President; G. Boner, Secretary-General; M.M. Popovtzer, Vice-President and Secretary, Scientific Committee; F. Bernheim and O.S. Better, Co-Chairs of the Scientific Program Committee; H.E. Eliahou, Vice-President and Co-Chair of the Publications Committee;



Fig. 20. Members of the Israeli Organizing Committee for the XII ISN Congress in Jerusalem, June 1993. Left to right: J. Ben-Ari, Member, Organizing Committee; J.B. Rosenfeld, Congress President; Y. Bar-Khayim, Secretary, Publications Committee; J. Bernheim, Co-Chair, Scientific Program Committee; M.M. Popovtzer, Vice President and Secretary, Scientific Program Committee; and G. Boner, Secretary-General. (Courtesy of G. Boner)

A. Iaina, Co-Chair, Publications Committee; and Y. Bar-Khayim, Secretary of the Publications Committee (Fig. 20). The Organizing Committee was led by D. Modai, M. Rathaus and J. Ben-Ari. J. Levi and S.M. Shasha served as the Chair and Secretary of the Financial Committee, respectively [211].

The ISN Advisory Committee was chaired by B.M. Brenner (USA). In contrast to previous Congresses, the composition of the ISN Committee was varied during each of several conjoint meetings with the Israeli Committee (Fig. 21). All told, at least 20 or more ISN representatives participated in at least one of several meetings, the first of which was held in Paris on October 22, 1990. This fact, coupled with the increased frequency of such meetings, reflected yet another step forward in the continuing effort to involve a larger number of ISN representatives in the design of the scientific program and other matters relevant to the Congresses.

The Jerusalem Convention Center and the nearby Hilton Hotel provided the main venues for this Congress. The preregistration fee was one of the lowest in recent times: US \$380 if paid prior to March 15, 1993, and US \$440 if paid thereafter [211].

The total paid registration was 3,126, including 2650 professional registrants and 476 accompanying persons. This number was comparable to that in Tokyo and gratifyingly high in view of the concerns of many about the possible impact of Middle Eastern politics on attendance [212]. Approximately 15% of the registrants were under the age of 35, a gratifying figure. Unfortunately, some Muslim countries would not permit their citizens to attend, an unfortunate circumstance that must be avoided



Fig. 21. A meeting in Israel of the ISN Advisory Committee and the Israeli Program Committee in preparation for the XII ISN Congress in Jerusalem. Left to right: G. Boner, O. Better, C. Amiel, J. Rosenfeld, R.R. Robinson, and B.M. Brenner.

in the future. The Congress was a financial success, thanks in part to good management on the part of the Israelis and a largest ever financial contribution of US \$180,000 in direct ISN support (including an interest-free loan of US \$50,000). In addition, R.R. Robinson and C.C. Tisher raised US \$426,990 of corporate sponsorship, and the American and Japanese Societies provided US \$50,000 (total ISN-raised monies, US \$653,990) [213]. These amounts, when combined with a sizeable amount of outside corporate sponsorship raised by the Israelis, meant that this Congress had raised much more money than had any previous Congress. At the end of the Congress, sufficient profit was realized to repay the ISN loan and contribute an additional US \$85,000 to the ISN treasury (including US \$20,000 in support of the Madrid Congress and US \$15,000 in support of the Congress publication in *KI*) [212].

Still another break with tradition was the first ever decision to forego the publication of a *Proceedings* in book form. Instead, selected "Highlights" of the Congress were edited by J. Bernheim, G. Boner, and M. Popovtzer and published in a supplement to *KI*, which included Summaries of the seven themes, selected state-of-the-art lectures, the Reports of all ISN officers, and descriptions of the ISN Award presentations [214]. Approximately 500 copies of the Abstract Book would be made available to developing countries.

The Congress opened on Sunday, June 13th, with an evening "Get Together" Reception with refreshments, hors d'oeuvres and music in the Jerusalem Convention Center. The Scientific Program began the next day and was followed that evening by the official Opening Ceremony, which included greetings from the President of Israel, the President of the Israeli Organizing Committee, and the President of the ISN. Their presentations

were followed by a multimedia slide and video show on Jerusalem and a splendid orchestral concert by the Israel Chamber Orchestra [215].

The format of the scientific program was new and unique [216]. More than 2,000 abstracts were accepted for presentation, at least 400 of which were presented orally. Overall, there were 34 state-of-the-art lectures, 67 symposia and 320 invited lectures. Most of these symposia and lecturers were included in one of seven "themes": (1) biology of glomerular injury; (2) biology of the tubule epithelial cell; (3) regulation of the immune response; (4) hypertension; (5) acute renal failure; (6) dialysis; and (7) diabetic glomerulopathy. In addition, free-standing symposia were presented on a wide array of topics, including such subjects as calcium, phosphorus and PTH; genetics of renal disease; geriatric nephrology; fibrillary nephropathy; lipids and renal disease; plus others. A special presentation was organized by the Commission on the History of Nephrology. In part, the provision of a sizeable number of symposia outside the purview of a "theme" reflected the concern of the Program Committees that the theme concept could not accommodate the expected breadth of interest usually embedded in a more traditional (but much less in-depth) format.

The ISN Awards Ceremony on June 16th witnessed the presentation of the Hamburger Award to H. de Wardener and G. Richet by E. Ritz, and presentation of the Richards Award to G. Giebisch by D.W. Seldin. Immediately following the Award Ceremony, K. Kurokawa introduced Michael Berridge, who delivered the named lecture in honor of Donald W. Seldin, the first such named lecture in the Society's history.

This Congress was not without its social schedule. Included were a guided tour of the Israel Museum, a tour of Jerusalem, and a gala Farewell at the Sultan's pool in a historic garden and outdoor theater beneath the walls of Old Jerusalem. Israeli folk music and booths of Israeli food were in abundance and the evening was closed with a performance by the "Shalom" dance group, singers Dudu Fisher and Yafa Yarkoni, and fireworks.

The President's dinner was held in the Hilton Hotel and included filet mignon with morel sauce and a Carmel red or white wine. The evening ended with a fabulous choral by a group of recently arrived Jews from Ethiopia.

The ISN Executive Committee met first on Sunday, June 13th [217]. The Finance Committee (Robinson, Schrier, and Tisher) had met in Atlanta and considered oral proposals from five financial services organizations for the management of a portion of the Society's financial reserves. Lazard Freres Asset Management (with worldwide offices) was selected to manage a portion of the Society's reserves, the exact amount to be determined by the Treasurer after considering other needs. Independently audited figures showed that total assets on December 31, 1992 were US \$3,349,213, of which US \$1,002,210

was in cash or cash equivalents and US \$1,903,042 was in various other investments [217]. What a change from 1960!

The Secretary-General reported that 321 completed applications for Fellowship had been received since the inception of the program [218]. From these, 66 Fellowships had been awarded for an average duration of 18 months. Their geographic origins were as follows: 33% from Asia, 17% from Latin America, 11% from Africa and the Middle East, and 5% from Central and Eastern Europe. Host countries included North America for 29 Fellows; Europe for 28; and Australia/New Zealand for 11. The American Society of Nephrology had sponsored six ISN Fellows for study in the USA and the British National Kidney Research Fund had sponsored one in the UK. It was hoped that other societies would follow suit. The first three Visiting Senior Scholars were funded in 1992 and 1993 for visits in Malaysia, Brazil, and Egypt. Last, 111 travel grants were awarded to young investigators for attendance at the Jerusalem Congress.

The President described a successful ISN-sponsored continuing education course in Cracow and Katowice, Poland, in September 1992 in collaboration with F. Kokot and the Polish Society. The ISN cosponsored other meetings in locations as diverse as Bolivia, Chile, China, Argentina, Nigeria, Tunisia, and Italy during the 1990-93 period.

The reappointment of Professor K. Solez as Chair of the Commission on Acute Renal Failure until 1995 was approved. Schrier suggested that the Commission should submit an annual report of its activities, which was perhaps the first recorded request for such a report.

President Robinson then described the results of complex and lengthy discussions with several multinational societies on the possibility of holding future conjoint meetings. An approach to the EDTA by Cameron was unsuccessful for 1995 but proposals to the Asian/Pacific, Latin American, and American societies had been received with more enthusiasm. It was voted to hold conjoint meetings with these three societies in 1997, 1999 and 2001 if approved finally by the Council [217].

The submission of full-length original manuscripts, technical notes and rapid communications to *Kidney International* rose to 736 in 1992 (total submissions, 963). *KI* published a record number of 266 manuscripts in 1992. Total paid circulation, however, was slightly lower at 8,550 [200]. The Society's profit for 1992 approached US \$375,000.

The Council met also on June 13th [219]. Robinson called attention to the successful fund-raising effort in support of the Jerusalem Congress and described the survey results of both the general membership and affiliated national societies. He noted that about one-third of the member respondents had not attended any of the past four Congresses (which suggested to some that *KI* may have been their main attraction for membership),

and that there was agreement that it was timely to review the content, format, and frequency of the Congresses. Further, the membership had expressed interest in a more in-depth treatment of important topics and the "thematic" format of the Jerusalem Congress reflected an attempt to address that desire. The president acknowledged the interest of national societies in establishing a closer working relationship with the ISN, and their relative lack of knowledge or insight into the nature and type of ISN programs. Toward that end an explanatory ISN brochure had been developed and mailed in bulk to all national societies. The desire for a closer association was to be addressed, in part, by holding conjoint meetings with the Asian/Pacific, Latin American, and American societies. Prophetic of future developments, the results of two ISN Strategic Planning Conferences had identified the advance of nephrology in developing countries as a unique ISN goal or priority.

After the report of the Nominating Committee by S. Klahr, Robert W. Schrier (USA) was elected President-Elect, Claude Amiel (France) was voted Vice-President, and Jan Weening (Netherlands) was elected Secretary-General. The Council then voted on the list of nominees to be presented to the General Assembly for election.

The Council closed with a query as to whether the ISN could serve properly as a coordinating point for the distribution of educational materials to developing countries. The provision of a set of morphological materials to Chile had been most beneficial. R.W. Schrier was asked to investigate the issue and report to the November meeting of the Council.

The Council met again on June 14th and received presentations from three societies with respect to the location of future Congresses [220]. The Asian/Pacific Society proposed to hold a conjoint Congress with the ISN in Sydney, Australia in 1997 where the Australian/New Zealand Society would serve as the local host Society. The Latin American Society nominated the Brazilian Society as the local host society and proposed that a conjoint Congress should be held in Rio de Janeiro in 1997 or 1999. The American Society proposed to hold a conjoint Congress with the ISN in 1999 in San Francisco. After active and even emotional discussion, the Council approved the following venues: Sydney (1997); Rio de Janeiro (1999); USA, perhaps San Francisco (2001). It was noted that the Council of the American Society would have to approve 2001 since it had proposed a conjoint meeting only for 1999.

The triennial meeting of the General Assembly was opened by President Robinson on June 16th [221]. The first item of business secured ratification of the actions of the Executive Committee and Council on proposed amendments to the 1978 Constitution and By-Laws. Basically, the proposed amendments increased the participation of members in the conduct of ISN affairs, allowed

greater flexibility in the frequency of the Congresses, reformulated the operating procedures of the Nominating Committee so as to achieve improved geographic representation on the Council, and strengthened the role of the ISN Program Committee in the design of the scientific program of future Congresses. Summarized briefly, the terms of Councilors would be restricted to six years instead of nine, flexibility in the length of time between Congresses would be permitted, membership on the Nominating Committee would be restricted to five people selected by the President-Elect and approved by the Council, a Congress Program Committee would be established, and the formation of Commissions would be authorized. After a full report on the Society's activities during his tenure [221], R.R. Robinson closed his remarks by reminding the membership that no more than one-quarter of the world's population benefited from medical knowledge already known and available in developed countries. He went on to emphasize the unique ISN programs that were intended to support the growth of nephrology in developing and emerging countries. The gavel was then passed to the incoming President for 1993-95, J. Stewart Cameron.

President Cameron acknowledged the activities of the past three years and saw as his task the need "*to consolidate, strengthen, and build*" on recent changes. He noted that "*the focus of the ISN has rightly turned to those areas of the world where the Society is most needed*": the developing world. Toward that end, he alluded to the imminent formation of one or more new Commissions directed specifically to the advance of nephrology in such areas [222].

The new Management Committee met on June 17th and voted to raise the ISN dues from US \$100.00 to US \$120.00 beginning in calendar year 1994. As this action was undertaken, it was emphasized that there had been no increase in total dues for seven years.

The new Executive Committee (J.S. Cameron, President; R.R. Robinson, Past President; R.W. Schrier, President-Elect; Claude Amiel, Vice President Jan Weening, Secretary-General; C. Craig Tisher, Treasurer; and Thomas E. Andreoli, Editor) met on June 17th [223]. In contrast to the actions of the Commissions on History and Acute Renal Failure, the inactivity of the Commissions on Cell Biology and Biophysics was noted and it was agreed that they should be discontinued. It was an unfortunate fact that their intended aims and activities had never been realized.

The ISN agreed to guarantee a commitment of US \$200,000 in support of the core themes at the Madrid Congress. Drs. Robinson, Tisher, and Kurokawa volunteered to raise this amount from external sources. Profit sharing at the end of the Madrid Congress would be proportionate to the total ISN financial contribution to the total expense of the Congress.

The new Council met on June 18th at which time President Cameron first welcomed the newly elected members for the period 1993–99: R. Barsoum (Egypt), W. Mitch (USA), R. Bailey (Australia), N. Schor (Brazil), K.-T. Woo (Singapore), J. Herrera-Acosta (Mexico), P. Zuchelli (Italy), R. Sutton (Canada), and P. Ronco (France) [216].

Much time was devoted to consideration of the perennially complex issue that had plagued the Society for the longest period, namely, the design of an orderly nominating and election process for Councilors before and during each Congress. Thanks to the commitment of Secretary-General Amiel, the balloting and election process had been much improved but membership participation in the electoral remained poor. For example, of more than 6,000 members, considerably more than 1,000 attended the Jerusalem Congress yet only 233 valid votes were cast [224]. The issue would require further study.

Pierre Ronco agreed to Chair the ISN Advisory Committee to the Madrid Congress in 1995. J.-P. Grünfeld would chair the 1993–95 Nominating Committee. His Committee would be the first to operate under the revised 1993 Constitution and By-Laws.

President Cameron again reviewed the breadth of current ISN programs relative to less affluent or developing countries, emphasizing that no other international society was addressing such programs. Nevertheless, there still was a great deal for the ISN to do in the developing world. For his part, he hoped to emphasize the need for a strengthened ISN relationship with nephrology in India [224].

Importantly, R.W. Schrier proposed that a Committee or Commission on Nephrology in Developing Countries should be established, in part to involve Councilors and other ISN members more actively in ISN affairs [224]. The proposed Commission would have two Co-Chairs and five subcommittees (each with a Chair and a Vice-Chair). Accordingly, the names of B. Brenner and J. Dirks were suggested as Co-Chairs of the overall Commission and Sub-Committees were formed for Asia (Chair, K. Kurokawa; Co-Chair, V. Sitprija); Russia (Chair, B. Brenner; Co-Chair, J. Dirks); Central Europe (Chair, R.R. Robinson; Co-Chair, F. Kokot); Africa (Chair, C. Amiel; Co-Chair, R. Barsoum); and South America (Chair, G. Malnic; Co-Chair, S. Klahr). His proposal would be voted at the next meeting of the Council. Thus was set in motion still another step in exercising the Society's interest and commitment to nephrology in the world's less-developed nations.

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD 1993–1995

The Presidency of Stewart Cameron was characterized by at least four major activities: (1) orderly implementation of the several changes in ISN governance and pro-

gram set in place earlier; (2) preparations for the 1995 Madrid Congress at an accelerated pace necessitated by the Society's adoption of biennial cycles for its Congresses; (3) successful conclusion of negotiations with the American Society to hold a conjoint Congress in 2001; and (4) a strengthened commitment to the support of nephrology in developing countries. To the latter objective, J.S. Cameron's administration would witness the first provision of a central point of organization within the Society for the coordination of such programs.

The Management and Executive Committees met in Boston on November 13, 1993 [225]. President Cameron listed a number of world-wide symposia that would bear the ISN imprimatur as a cosponsor, with or without a small amount of ISN financial support. He then elaborated on his plans for an ISN-sponsored continuing education course in Chandigarh, India in October 1994. Noting that Dr. Gianantonio (Argentina) had resigned from the Council, his replacement by Dr. E. Arrizurieta until July 1995 was approved.

The financial health of the Society remained good. Lazard Frères was managing US \$1.9 million as of October 31, 1993 [225]. Notable among the projected expenses in the proposed budget for 1994 were US \$520,000 for the Fellowship Program, \$185,000 for three Frontiers Conferences and a similar conference to be held jointly with the American Society, and \$40,000 (increased from \$30,000) in support of ISN-sponsored continuing education courses in developing countries. Later, US \$750,000 would be allocated in support of a new Commission for the Advance of Nephrology in Developing Countries. Considerable discussion surrounded the need for financial and other policy guidelines with respect to the ISN role in the design of the biennial Congresses. An appropriate set of guidelines was developed subsequently by Treasurer C.C. Tisher [226].

It was within this time frame that the possible future need for a professional organization to manage the Society's increasingly complex business affairs was again raised. This issue had been discussed before but never as seriously as now. The Society was on the threshold of a period of expansion that would lead eventually to the establishment of a permanent business office.

Total submissions to *Kidney International* for 1992 were 736 and T.E. Andreoli estimated that more than 850 would be received during 1993. He also predicted that 1993 would witness a record profit of US \$625,000 on a total budget of approximately US \$2,500,000. As had been the case on so many occasions in the past, the question on the provision of *KI* to developing countries at a reduced rate was raised. No decision was made; instead, the issue was referred to the emerging Commission on Nephrology in Developing Countries for further consideration.

The Council later met in Boston on November 17th,

1993 (all officers and 17 Councilors were in attendance) [227]. The leading agenda item concerned the purpose and program of the newly proposed Commission on the Global Advance of Nephrology in Developing Countries. J. Dirks, who had expressed an interest in this Commission, was asked to consider a number of questions and develop an appropriate mission statement for the proposed new Commission. The marked heterogeneity of the type and quality of nephrological practice among various regions was acknowledged, and it was recognized that needs might vary greatly from one region to another. Existent strengths, weaknesses and needs within differing regions should be identified so that educational commitments could be tailored to local circumstances. A major challenge often surrounded the distribution of educational programs in such a manner as to ensure their delivery to practitioners in the field who were often far removed from close association with a developed center. National societies needed to be involved and it was hoped that the new Commission would encourage the establishment of solid relationships between centers in developed countries and those in a developing country. In some regions, attention might be directed first at low cost needs such as the detection and treatment of hypertension. Other more specific programs might include the ongoing library enhancement program, liaison programs between centers in developed countries and counterparts in less advantaged regions, "refresher" courses for former ISN Fellows, short visits to developed countries by nephrologists from developing countries, local continuing education courses, etc. Even though issues and programs such as these seemed obvious, it was thought that any final determination of programs for a given region should await an inventory of current local resources and practices.

This thorough discussion of possible principles and programs led to a formal motion to establish the Commission with five Sub-Commissions or Committees, as had been suggested by Vice President Schrier during the last meeting of the Council in Jerusalem. The motion was approved unanimously and an annual allocation of US \$15,000 in support of the activities of each of the five Sub-Committees was approved [227]. B.M. Brenner and J. Dirks were asked to coordinate the activities of this new Commission.

Treasurer C.C. Tisher, who had conceived, launched and sustained the library enhancement program, announced that this highly successful program would continue to feature the distribution of free *Kidney International* subscriptions to 100 libraries in developing countries, plus a growing number of books from various publishers. Last, President Cameron announced that the American Society had agreed, at least in principle, to hold a conjoint Congress with the ISN in San Francisco in 2001. Subsequent meetings between representatives

of the two societies would develop the final outline of the relationship.

Earlier in September 1993, Past President Robinson had received a query from the ASN President as to the ISN view of the ASN's proposed guidelines for holding a conjoint meeting as proposed earlier by them. R.R. Robinson was pleased that the American Society was willing to extend its hand so positively to the international community. After consultation with President Cameron and other officers, he had responded in detail to the proposed ASN guidelines. The ISN response, reinforced by subsequent reaffirmation of the concept of a conjoint meeting by the ASN Council, led to a final meeting between representatives of the two societies in Dallas, Texas (USA), on February 17, 1994. At that meeting, the ISN was represented by President Cameron, Past President Robinson, and President-Elect Schrier (none of whom would be active in ISN affairs in 2001). A final agreement was generated that, appropriately, would be subject to annual review and possible modification if approved by the governing bodies of the two societies. Final endorsement by the American Society was received in a letter dated September 14, 1994 from Thomas Andreoli, who was then President of the American Society and the current Editor of *KI* [228]. (Unbeknownst to him at the time, he was destined to be the ISN President during the 2001 Congress!) His role in the affairs of both societies is reflective of the frequency with which ISN leadership has also held leadership positions in the affairs of relevant national societies, as well as the potential conflict of interest posed to an individual who holds a responsible office in two societies that are attempting to establish a mutually beneficial relationship. Professor Andreoli handled the potential for such conflict with a full measure of grace and common sense.

1994

The Executive Committee next met in Orlando, Florida on October 25, 1994 [229]. The Society's continued prosperity (assets under management by Lazard Frères now exceeded US \$2.5 million) led to a unanimous vote to increase the Fellowship stipend to US \$22,500, coupled with free membership in the ISN.

The Commission on the History of Nephrology reported its completion of the translation of Karl Ludwig's Habilitation Thesis. Reproductions of the original Latin and German versions appeared alongside English translations on the facing pages as a Supplement to *KI* [230]. The Executive had authorized partial financial support for the publication of this important work as early as 1993.

The Commission on Acute Renal Failure remained exceedingly active under the leadership of the indefatigable K. Solez. It had agreed to sponsor a Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine in 1995, a satellite

symposium in conjunction with the 1997 Congress in Sydney, and held yet another meeting in Banff, Canada, on allograft pathology. The Commission had developed a standardized morphologic classification of kidney transplant rejection that was published in *KI* in 1993 [231]. Definitions of key terms used in the field of acute renal failure remained an important priority. Focused attention was also directed toward the international provision of dialysis aid in the event of natural disaster. The Commission, in cooperation with the National Kidney Foundation (USA) developed a Disaster Relief Task Force comprised of physicians from more than 40 countries [232]. Dr. N. Lamiere (Belgium) had established another system for responding to post-earthquake dialysis needs in Europe with the support of the Belgian Air Force, Doctors Without Borders, and the European Union. An initiative associated loosely with the Commission on Acute Renal Failure (but linked officially with the Commission on the History of Nephrology) was the Video Legacy Project, directed by K. Solez and President Cameron. This project conducted live video interviews of senior figures in nephrology as a means of recording a living history of the development and growth of this relatively new specialty [233].

Nine Forefronts Conferences had been held through 1992, and three had been held during 1994. Several others were to be scheduled during 1995–97.

Total manuscript submissions to *KI* for 1993 rose to 1,067 (including 865 original manuscripts) [200]. The interval between their receipt of the manuscript and the initial decision letter had been reduced to just over 40 days in 1993, and had held steady at 40 days exactly thus far in 1994. Total paid circulation for 1993 stood at 8,878, including 6,569 member subscribers. Awesomely, the final ISN share of profit for 1993 was US \$633,400 and that for 1994 was again expected to approximate US \$600,000.

To facilitate the interaction between the Commission on the Advance of Nephrology in Developing Countries and the ISN Fellowship Committee, the latter Committee was expanded to include J. Dirks and B. Brenner in addition to J. Weening as Chair, C. Amiel, and a representative from both the American Society and the UK.

President-Elect Schrier reported that the 1995–97 Nominating Committee, as required by the 1993 revisions to the Constitution, would be composed of only five individuals: M. Dunn, Chair (USA), M. Goldman (Europe), H.-Y. Wang (Asia), N. Schor (Latin America) and R. Barsoum (Africa).

The Executive Committee received a report from a first meeting of the Commission on Developing Countries and representatives of its regional Sub-Committees, which had been held in parallel alongside the meeting of the Executive. The current activities of the five sub-Committees were reviewed and eight possible goals for the Commission had been discussed: (a) to assist in

strengthening patient care, research, and education; (b) the provision of regional postgraduate courses; (c) to encourage attendance at the ISN Congresses; (d) to solicit and establish institutional partnerships; (e) the creation of a “leadership council” of representatives from developing countries; (f) to strengthen the programs of national societies; (g) to effect a reduction in total ISN dues; and (h) to achieve increased financial support.

The Council met on October 29th with 18 Councilors in attendance [234]. There was extended discussion of the possible goals and programs of the new Commission on the Advance of Nephrology in Developing Countries. A final decision on the provision of reduced ISN dues was deferred. In response to the Commission’s request for increased financial support, the ISN budget for 1995 allocated US \$137,000 in support of the new Commission and its programs. At least initially, any unspent 1994 monies could also be carried over into 1995.

It was during this series of meetings in Orlando that the design of the Fellowship program began to undergo substantive change. Many felt that there was a bona fide need for Fellowships of less than one year in duration, and that the age of eligibility should be increased to age 40. This approach was particularly applicable to a nephrologist from a developing country who wished exposure to a specific technique of potential use in his/her home country. The recommended changes were approved, including a broadening of Fellowship eligibility to include Ph.D. candidates and technicians.

THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, MADRID, SPAIN, JULY 2–6, 1995

The Executive Committee of the Organizing Committee for the Madrid Congress was led by Luis Hernando (Madrid), President; Luis Revert (Barcelona) and Jose L. Rodicio (Madrid), Vice Presidents; Julio Botella (Madrid), Secretary; and Fernando Valderrábano (Madrid), Treasurer. It was assisted by the Executive Committee of the Spanish Society of Nephrology, led by its President, P. Aljama (Córdoba), Vice President M. Arias (Santander), Secretary R. Perez-Garcia (Madrid), Treasurer A. Martinez-Castelao (Barcelona), and a large and outstanding Spanish Advisory Committee from throughout Spain. Coordinators of the Course on Continuing Medical Education were J. Botella, L.L. Revert, J.L. Rodicio, and F. Valderrábano, who worked closely with their ISN counterparts: H.R. Jacobson (USA) and N. Ismail (USA). The Scientific Program Committee was chaired by Pierre Ronco (Paris) with the assistance of 21 other ISN members, each one of whom participated in at least one of several conjoint meetings with the Spanish Program Committee [235].

Planning for the scientific program and the logistical

needs of the Congress had begun in advance of even the Jerusalem Congress. One such meeting was held in Madrid on January 3–5, 1992, even before it was certain that the Madrid Congress would be held in 1995 rather than 1996 [236]. At first, it was hoped that a conjoint meeting could be held with the European Dialysis and Transplant Association but those efforts were unsuccessful. The first “organizational” meeting of the Program Committee, under the leadership of P. Ronco, was held on March 28, 1993 in Paris [237]. In attendance were L. Hernando, S. Cameron, and P. Ronco. Soon after the Jerusalem Congress, in October 1993, the first “official” meeting of the conjoint ISN and Spanish Program Committee was held in Madrid. From that time forward, the movement of the Congress from 1996 to 1995 required the development of plans at an accelerated pace. The Spanish organizers and the Program Committee rose to that challenge magnificently.

The Congress was held under the patronage of their Majesties, the King and Queen of Spain. It took place in the new and modern Palacio Municipal des Congresos, Campo de las Naciones, on the outskirts of Madrid, which provided an exciting and more than adequate modern venue. A registration fee of US \$400 (if paid before February 28, 1995) was gratifyingly lower than that at several earlier Congresses [235].

The Congress was attended by 4,306 registrants (total attendance: 5,146), the largest number ever in the history of the society. Overall, 2,165 abstracts were received from 71 countries [238]. Of these, 310 were selected for oral presentation and almost all of the rest for poster presentation [239]. In addition to the abstract book, abstracts of the presentations by invited speakers were printed in a separate volume and distributed at the time of registration. A syllabus for the CME course was distributed to approximately 900 attendees who attended the course, and extra copies were prepared for free distribution to developing countries. A CD-Rom containing the final program, the continuing education course and the two abstract books was distributed to all registrants, thereby signifying the entry of ISN Congresses into the age of new technology.

The Congress convened on Sunday, July 2, 1995 with a grand reception in the Palacio des Congresos, followed by a “Gran Gala Lirica” in the nearby open-air amphitheater.

The construct of the scientific program, simultaneously coupled with the Society’s first continuing education program, was outstanding. The design of the scientific program resembled that in Jerusalem closely and was divided into nine principal themes, each with its own coordinator or cocordinators: (1) renal ontogeny and diseases of renal development; (2) biology of channels and transporters; (3) biology of the vessel wall; (4) hypertension; (5) acute renal failure; and (6) diabetic nephropathy and progres-

sion of non-diabetic renal disease; (7) glomerular diseases; (8) transplantation; and (9) dialysis and chronic renal failure. The themes were complemented by the delivery of 32 state-of-the-art lectures and almost 75 symposia. The D.W. Seldin Lecture on G-proteins was given by Nobel Laureate A. Gilman (USA). The A.N. Richards Award was presented to M. Burg (USA) and F. Morel (France) by K. Ullrich (Germany), and the J. Hamburger Award to D.W. Seldin (USA) by R. Alpern (USA).

Other social events included a beautiful concert by the Halffter “Sinfonietta” in the National Auditorium for Music on Tuesday. A Farewell Dinner was held on Thursday evening, July 6th, at the fabulous old Castillo de Viñuelas outside of Madrid (Fig. 3). The President’s Dinner was held in Retiro Park, a very special privilege indeed. Accompanying persons were offered opportunities to tour Madrid or visit surrounding towns such as Toledo or Segovia. Throughout this Congress, the hospitality and generosity of the Spanish hosts were evident everywhere.

The Executive Committee met first on Sunday, July 2nd [240]. Principal agenda items included reconstitution of the Fellowship Committee with J. Weening as Chair; S. Klahr and A. Rees as representatives of the American Society and the UK, respectively; and B. Brenner, J. Dirks, and K. Thurau as representatives of the Commission on Nephrology in Developing Countries. Representatives were to be sought from Africa and Taiwan. ISN Fellowship awards of no more than 3–6 months duration were granted for the first time, and 122 of 212 applicants were selected to receive a travel grant of US \$1,000 to attend the Madrid Congress (99 were actually claimed and paid). There had been no requests for a Senior Visiting Scholarship during the preceding two-year period.

Leon Fine (UK) was appointed to succeed C.W. Gottschalk as Chair of the successful Commission on the History of Nephrology. It was with great regret that the Executive acceded to Gottschalk’s wish to step aside, but it was grateful for his many past contributions to the Commission and it was confident that his successor was equally qualified to lead the Commission forward, including the care of the Society’s archives. In his final report to the Executive [241], Gottschalk had noted the translation and publication of Ludwig’s thesis as the most important project undertaken during his tenure [230]. In so doing, he offered appropriate recognition to his colleagues in that effort, J.M. Davis, D. Haeberle and K. Thurau [241].

The successful library enhancement project focused, once again, on one of many difficulties surrounding all attempts to relate to developing countries and their national societies. Overall, 33 of 140 library addresses had been found to be incorrect and mail delivery to or within some nations was notoriously unpredictable. Despite the

efforts of successive Presidents and officers, a repository of timely and reliable information on national societies had never been assembled. The Commission on Developing Countries was asked to give high priority to securing accurate addresses, including those of the leadership of relevant national societies.

President-Elect Schrier's proposal to offer honorary membership to all past Presidents was approved, including similar recognition for other members whose service to the Society had been particularly outstanding.

Unfortunately, rumors about the sale and use of organs from executed prisoners for transplantation had now been verified. The Executive voted its disapproval of such transactions and agreed that this issue should be investigated by the ISN.

The Management Committee met on the same day [242] and President Cameron announced the appointment of K. Kurokawa and P. Ronco to replace S. Klahr and K. Peters, who were retiring. Later, when K. Kurokawa was voted President-Elect, R. Barsoum was appointed by President Schrier as his replacement.

Representatives of Blackwell Science outlined their view of the future of medical publishing with emphasis on the nature and impact of electronic publishing. Beginning in 1995, a single CD-ROM would be offered by *KI*, priced moderately, and sold at year's end to those who wished it. Later, a complementary CD-ROM disc would be sent to all members. The advantages of having *KI* on CD-ROM and the Internet as well were mentioned, not the least of which was the reduced cost of postage.

The number of submissions continued to grow: a total of 1,097 were received during calendar year 1994, of which 868 were original full-length manuscripts, technical notes, or rapid communications. Overall, 344 of these 868 submissions were published (40%). Total paid circulation was 8,862; including 6,520 member subscribers [200].

The perennial question of a reduced subscription rate for *KI* in the developing world was raised once again. No decision was reached but three possibilities were discussed: (a) membership only for US \$5 to 10, (b) pay a minimum "break-even" rate for a subscription (US \$50 to 60), and (c) pay one fee of US \$100 to 120 for one subscription to the journal and memberships for up to 10 people [242].

The first Council meeting was also held on Sunday, July 1st [243]. President Cameron described plans to revise the informational brochure on ISN programs that was first produced in 1992. K. Solez was asked to offer recommendations on the use of computerized methods for the distribution of such information. The Executive Committee accepted his recommendation to create an ISN home page on the worldwide web and President Cameron agreed to prepare a first description of the Society for inclusion therein. Additional and more specific content could be added later.

It was at this time that the resignation of Vice President Claude Amiel was noted [243]. His intention to resign for reasons of health had been communicated to President Cameron, the Executive Committee, and the Chair of the Nominating Committee just prior to the Congress. Claude Amiel had served the Society continuously since 1971 when he had accepted the post of Assistant Editor of *KI*. He had directed the journal's Paris office with diligence, fairness, and style since that time, continuing to serve the journal throughout his tenure as Secretary-General, Chair of the Fellowship Committee, and most recently as Vice President. His resignation meant that his name could not be brought forward to the Council as a candidate for President-Elect (which many believe he would have won had his name been so proposed). His resignation was an enormous loss to the Society and to his many ISN colleagues and friends. He is remembered with great affection by all who knew him.

In its wisdom, the Nominating Committee and its Chair, J.-P. Grünfeld, recognized the growing importance of the Asian membership in the society's affairs. Accordingly, the Council elected K. Kurokawa as President-Elect and T.E. Andreoli as Vice President. A ballot was approved for presentation to the General Assembly for the election of new Councilors.

The new Management and Executive Committees met on July 6th under the leadership of President Schrier [244]. First on the agenda was a detailed report by B. Brenner and J. Dirks on the activities of the Commission on the Advance of Nephrology in Developing Countries. During an earlier meeting with the Presidents of national societies, a desire for reduced ISN dues was again expressed by all. Such requests had been constant and recurring for many years, beginning with the founding of *KI* in 1971–72. In the past, the more or less tenuous financial foundation of the journal and the Society had postponed definitive action on the matter. The improved financial condition of the Society and the formation of the new Commission set the stage for renewed consideration. The need for this action was underscored by the fact that some had estimated that as many as 1,500 and 3,600 nephrologists were resident in China and Latin America, respectively. Yet, at this time, the ISN could claim only 11 members from China and 475 from Latin America. It was therefore decided that a collective group of 5 to 10 new nonmember nephrologists could pay a single fee of US \$100 (\$75 for *KI* and \$25 for dues) for a single shared subscription to *KI* but that each person would receive individual membership. The journal would be sent to one address for subsequent circulation among the group, but each individual member would receive all other ISN mailings. World Bank definitions would be used to characterize a developing country. The requirement for individual sponsorship by other ISN members would be waived (a Constitutional requirement that had

always been pro forma anyway when followed). In effect, some said, if the group was 10 in number, the new process amounted to admitting nine members for free. Importantly, however, the financial integrity of *KI* would not be jeopardized.

The growing activities of the Commission on Developing Countries raised the question of strengthened clerical and other support, an issue that was folded into the larger issue of whether or not it was timely to reconsider the advisability of utilizing a management company and establishing a permanent secretariat.

Robert Alpern and Heini Murer, who would succeed G. Giebisch as Co-Directors of the Forefronts Conferences, expected to solicit proposals for possible topics from the general membership. Plans were firm for a Conference on Phosphate Transport in Switzerland.

The Executive Committee continued to struggle with how to improve the participation of the membership in the election of Councilors. Only 205 members had voted in Madrid. This problem was longstanding, perhaps reflecting the view of some that their vote had no more than minimal impact on ISN affairs and that such ballots offered little more than a token opportunity for participation by the general membership. After all, the membership had no input into the election of officers, and could elect no more than one-quarter to one-third of the Councilors. Treasurer Tisher was asked to consider one of several recommendations for improving the process in 1997 in Sydney.

The logistical adequacy of Rio de Janeiro as the site of the 1999 Congress was questioned by several members of the Executive. The ISN had long struggled with just how to improve the selection process for its Congressional venues. It was important to ensure that a spectrum of differing priced hotels were convenient to the meeting site, that there were a sufficient number of appropriately sized meeting rooms, and on and on. Unfortunately, politics or other considerations had sometimes led to decisions on venue that proved later to be less than adequate. The Executive was determined that such mistakes should be minimized. A correct decision had nothing to do with the attraction of a particular city, its people, or its culture, but mainly with the adequacy of its facilities for a meeting, including the necessary infrastructure. Accordingly, an ISN site visit to Rio was recommended and approved.

The new Council met on July 7th [245]. Newly elected members included T.H. Hostetter (USA), H. Murer (Switzerland), D. Bichet (Canada), B. Rodriguez-Iturbe (Venezuela), E. Arrizurieta (Argentina) and M. Field (Australia). B.M. Brenner and J. Dirks met with the entire Commission on Nephrology in Developing Countries and each of the Sub-Committees during the Congress. President Schrier announced that the Executive would allocate budgeted but unspent monies of the Sub-



Fig. 22. ISN Executive Committee, 1995–97. Front row, left to right: Past President Cameron, President Schrier, President-Elect Kurokawa. Back row, left to right: Secretary General Weening, Editor Andreoli and Treasurer Tisher. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat)

Committees in support of new recommendations brought forward by the Commission Co-Chairs. Further, the appointment of Visiting Senior Scholars would be made on recommendations from the Commission Co-Chairs, and at least 250 used CD-ROMS of “Nephrology Update” would be sent to developing countries without charge. Additionally, the ISN would establish an informational web page on the Internet and encourage the development of “sister” partnerships between nephrology centers or medical schools in developed versus developing countries. The composition of the various Sub-Committees was changed slightly, for example, E. Ritz (Germany) replaced R.R. Robinson as Chair of the Sub-Committee for Eastern and Central Europe. Reflective of the Executive’s appreciation of the rapidly emerging world of high technology was the appointment of Drs. Z. Agus and K. Solez as leaders of a new Committee on Information Technology.

The imminent transfer of the leadership of the Forefronts Conferences from G. Giebisch to R. Alpern and H. Murer marked the end of an era of sorts. Professor Giebisch had led the program since its inception in the early 1980s and it was mainly due to his skill and wisdom that the series had become so well established and received. The Society owes a great deal to him for his commitment and leadership. The Conferences had become well established as focal points of high scientific quality.

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1995–1997

The new Executive Committee for 1995–97 was composed of President Robert W. Schrier (USA), Past President J.S. Cameron (UK), President-Elect K. Kurokawa (Japan), Editor T.E. Andreoli (USA), Treasurer C. Craig Tisher (USA), and Secretary-General J.J. Weening (Netherlands) (Fig. 22).

President Schrier's tenure would witness steady growth in the Society's traditional programs (*KI*, the Forefronts Conferences, the International Fellowship Program, the Commissions on History and Acute Renal Failure, etc.), but it would also witness the advent of new activities and an ever heightening commitment to the advancement of nephrology in emerging countries.

1995

The Executive and Management Committees held their first meetings under R.W. Schrier's leadership on November 4, 1995, in San Diego, California [239]. President Schrier announced that the new Joint Membership Program, approved in Madrid, would be launched with vigor. A subsequent article in *KI* noted that its intent was to attract new members from developing countries since the combined dues/subscription fee of US \$100 represented a substantial investment for many in the developing world [246]. The joint membership program would permit two to 10 new members to have an individual ISN membership and share a single copy of *KI* among themselves. The offer was made only to individuals from developing countries as defined by the World Bank. The program would be promoted and sustained until the Sydney Congress in 1997, at which time it would be re-evaluated.

Continuing the effort to hold future ISN Congresses in association with established meetings of regional organizations, President Schrier authorized the initiation of renewed discussions with the European Renal Association (ERA). Past-President Cameron, who had participated prominently in the unsuccessful approach to the ERA in 1991–92, would again lead a renewed effort to hold a conjoint meeting with the ERA in 2003.

President Schrier announced that T.E. Andreoli had declared his intention to resign the Editorship of *KI* in 1997 after 13 years at the helm. The journal had experienced remarkable growth under his leadership and was recognized clearly as the world's premier journal in nephrology. A Search Committee chaired by K. Kurokawa would seek a successor, a task complicated slightly by a simultaneous search for the editors of two other nephrology journals, the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* and *The American Journal of Kidney Disease*.

The exponential growth of the Society's programs and financial commitments continued to stimulate discussion on the probable need for professional leadership in the management of ISN affairs. One index of growth was provided by increasingly thick agenda books for ISN Executive Committee meetings. Such books had been assembled for the first time in advance of meetings during 1990–93 and had burgeoned in size ever since. The burden of more or less routine activities had become

heavy and C.C. Tisher agreed to lead an evaluation of possible choices.

The Society's commitment to continuing education in developing countries was emphasized clearly by the announcement that 113 copies of H. Rennke's comprehensive set of 35 mm slides for instruction in the histopathology of kidney diseases had been shipped to emerging countries at an average cost of US \$345 per box. The 1996 budget for the Commission on Nephrology in Developing Countries was increased to US \$125,000.

Dr. Hernando reported on the successful Congress in Madrid. The Executive was pleased to learn that the ISN would receive 25% (US \$94,225) of the meeting's substantial profit, an amount proportional to the percentage of financial sponsorship provided by the ISN.

The Commission on Acute Renal Failure (ARF) continued its many activities under the leadership of K. Solez [239]. Its several programs were financed largely by outside sponsorship which far exceeded the small amount of core funding provided by the ISN. The Commission had been particularly successful in the development of regional meetings on various topics relevant to acute renal failure (three were already scheduled for 1996–97). The Video Legacy Program (which was a program of the Commission on ARF only in the sense that K. Solez also served as its Co-Chair) was enormously successful and an increasing number of interviews had been conducted with senior members of the international nephrological community. The biennial Banff Conferences on Allograft Pathology and other projects such as the development of an approach to scoring the severity of acute renal failure were particularly noteworthy.

K. Solez reported further that the previously appointed Committee on Informatics now wished to become a duly constituted ISN Commission on Informatics. The proposed Commission would launch several programs, including an ISN homepage on the Internet. This site could eventually provide extensive information on ISN programs. In addition, a nephrology discussion group would be established via the internet as an interactive educational vehicle for nephrologists worldwide. Through the proposed Commission's cooperation with various organizations and publications, a plethora of differing types of images and programs could also be placed on the internet for teaching or other purposes. Informatics support for future Congresses could even be provided if desired.

The full Council met on November 8, 1995 [247]. Impressively, all were in attendance with the exception of Past President Cameron and councilors E. Frömter (Germany) and R. Bailey (New Zealand). It was at this meeting that the possible creation of working partnerships between a center in a developed country and one in a developing or emerging country were first discussed extensively. The proposed program was greeted with

enthusiasm by the Council, which viewed it as an important approach to the establishment of ongoing contact between nephrologists in developed and developing countries. An attempt, led by the Secretary-General, was being made to develop an inventory of renal centers throughout the world as a starting point for the identification and facilitation of possible future partnerships. In time, this program would become known as the Renal Sister Center Program. President Schrier deserves great credit for its establishment.

The 1995–97 Nominating Committee (chaired by M. Dunn [USA]), was asked to develop recommendations for Treasurer and Vice President as well as 12 European names for 4 Council vacancies, 3 North American names for one vacancy, and 6 Asian candidates for two open positions.

A choice of venues for 2003 Congress would have to be made in 1997. Candidates included a conjoint meeting with the European Renal Association at a European location (a proposal from German-speaking countries had been received) or a conjoint meeting with the African Association at a location in Africa.

The Council continued to debate the complex ethical issues surrounding the use of prisoners or paid volunteers as donors for kidney transplantation. The Council felt that it was not well enough informed to take a firm and unified stand on this issue and that a more appropriate evaluation should include input from representatives of fields such as law, philosophy and ethics. The Council elected to await a fuller future report from the Society's Committee on Ethics.

A detailed report was offered by B.M. Brenner and J. Dirks on the current and planned activities of the Commission on Nephrology in Developing Countries. The past year (1995) had witnessed a great deal of activity in Asia, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and Russia, most of which surrounded exploratory visits, small meetings, visiting lecturers, etc. As pointed out later by J. Dirks, various forms of continuing education courses would come to represent the heart of the Commission's activities [248].

1996

The Executive and Management Committees next met on November 2, 1996 in New Orleans, Louisiana [249]. The Secretary-General offered an exciting update on the Fellowship program by noting that the American Society had agreed to raise the stipend of its four ISN Fellows to US \$22,500 and provide 15 travel grants of US \$1,000 to ISN-selected candidates for attendance at the annual meeting of the American Society. Japanese sponsorship of an ISN-selected Chinese Fellow for study in Japan was also announced. Of 67 ISN Fellows who had completed their training prior to January 1996, 42 were now

working in their home country, 16 in their host country (six of whom indicated that they would soon return to their home country), and three had been lost to follow-up. Although not as good as originally intended or planned, it was nevertheless commendable that 70% or more of all Fellows would one day return to their home country, thereby contributing enormously to the advancement of nephrology in their country of origin.

The inventory of renal centers in developed countries revealed that 107 had expressed interest in possible participation in the Renal Sisters Program, 17 of which were said to have already established active partnerships while another 16 were said to be in the formative stage. The Joint Membership Program was also proving to be successful. Total ISN membership rose to 8,125 by September 30, 1996, the highest total ever. Of these, 1,419 were new joint memberships!

Profit from the 1997 Sydney Congress, if any, would be distributed equally between the Australian/New Zealand Society and the ISN. Forty percent of the ISN portion would be designated by the Asian/Pacific Society for specific regional programs [249].

The name of William E. Mitch (Atlanta, Georgia, USA) would be brought forward to the Council for election as the successor Treasurer to C.C. Tisher. He would take office officially in May 1997, after a six-month transition process.

It was expected that the Committee on Informatics (or Computer Information) would be designated formally as a Commission in July 1997. In the meantime, the Committee noted that over 600 people had participated in the NEPHRO-L Internet discussion group and that the ISN home page on the Internet was accessed with increasing frequency. The Nephrology UpToDate program had agreed to provide 10 free copies of its CD-ROM Program in Nephrology to 10 individuals or institutions in emerging countries from a list submitted by the ISN [250].

The search for a new Editor of *KI* was completed. Saulo Klahr (St. Louis, MO, USA), an experienced editor and an internationally prominent figure in nephrology, would replace T.E. Andreoli on July 1, 1997. His assumption of the Editorship (*KI*'s third editor in 25 years) would mark the end of a period of tremendous growth and success under T.E. Andreoli's leadership [200]. In 1996, *KI* received 929 original manuscripts, a growth of 2.2 fold since 1984. However, submissions of all types equaled 1,217 during 1996, a 2.65-fold increase since 1984. Of the original manuscripts submitted in 1996, 20.5% came from Asian/Pacific countries, 36% from North America, and 44% from Europe. The acceptance rate had remained relatively constant throughout the Andreoli years, ranging between 37 and 40%. There had been a substantial increase in annual profit to the ISN, rising approximately 900% between 1984 and 1996.

Among other achievements, *KI* had been available on CD-ROM since 1995 and a record number of pages (8,208) was published in 1996. Total paid circulation would increase to 9,559 for 1996 [200]. Discussions with the publisher had been set in place to provide access to *KI* via the Internet, hopefully as early as 1998. The Society was indeed fortunate that T.E. Andreoli had agreed to accept *KI*'s reins of leadership.

The Commission on Acute Renal Failure announced that the Fourth Banff Conference on Allograft Pathology would be held in 1997, that a satellite conference would be held in Australia after the Sydney Congress, and that a Disaster Relief Task Force had been active in Haiti. N. Lameire was scheduled to replace K. Solez as Chair of the Commission in July 1997.

B.M. Brenner reported that the Commission on Nephrology in Developing Countries (first referred to as the Commission on Global Advancement of Nephrology or COMGAN at this meeting) had experienced considerable activity in each of the five designated regions. In Africa, a visit had been paid to South Africa and a successful continuing education course was held in Nairobi in September 1996. Another postgraduate course was held in Shanghai in 1995 and one was held more recently in Beijing. In Central Europe, "summer schools" were held in Kaunas and Budapest. Postgraduate courses were held in Moscow, St. Petersburg and the Baltic countries in 1995. Several visits were also made to countries in Central America. It was becoming increasingly evident that the ISN commitment to developing countries was muscular and growing, and perhaps unique among major international medical or scientific societies [251].

The Council addressed a particularly distressing issue at this meeting of the Council [251]. Concern had been expressed about the suitability of the facilities in Rio de Janeiro for the 1999 Congress and Buenos Aires was proposed as alternative site. After a warm discussion, it was reluctantly decided to change the venue for the 1999 Congress from Rio to Buenos Aires, the first time such a change had been made in the Society's history.

In summary, the 1995–97 period was a busy time. Important changes in leadership were set in place in the offices of Treasurer and Editor, and the Society began to make its earliest attempts to deal with the impact of changing technology on communication. It was also a time in which the Society oversaw an expanded commitment to its programs in emerging countries. Included among the new programs were the Renal Sisters Program and the joint membership program. Exploratory discussions on the Society's possible interest in the internet distribution of educational and other types of information and the establishment of an international network for the conduct of controlled clinical trials were held. A working group on medical ethics was established.

FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, MAY 25–29, 1997

The XIVth International Congress of Nephrology was held under the local auspices of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) and the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology (APSN). Its President was Robert C. Atkins (Australia), Vice Presidents were Kirpal Chugh (India) and Ross Bailey (New Zealand). The Secretary-General was John A. Charlesworth, and the Assistant Secretary-General was Bruce Pussell. Convenor of the Scientific Program Committee was David C.H. Harris, the Treasurer was Elliott Savdie, who was assisted by John Mahony, and the Chair of the Social Committee was Paul V. Collett. Chair of the Finance Committee was Graham J. Macdonald. Publications and satellite conferences were the responsibility of G.J. Becker and A.R. Clarkson, respectively. James R. Lawrence chaired the Committee for Continuing Medical Education and Jeremy Chapman chaired the International Training Course Committee [252]. This was an exceedingly active organizing group. It met first in October 1993 and on 31 subsequent occasions [253].

The Scientific Program Committee [252], chaired by D.C.H. Harris, included representatives from the ISN, the ANZSN, and the APSN. Its Executive Committee included D.C.H. Harris, S. Klahr (USA), R.W. Schrier (USA), R.C. Atkins (Australia), M.J. Field (Australia) and K. Kurokawa (Japan). ISN members of the Committee included A. Aperia (Sweden), B. Ballerman (USA), J.S. Cameron (UK), G. Remuzzi (Italy), P. Ronco (France), and D. Schlöndorff (Germany).

The Congress was held in the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Center at Darling Harbour. The registration fee for the Sydney Congress was A \$750 for ISN members (~US \$550). The total registration of professionals was 4,079 plus 427 accompanying guests and 590 exhibitors [253]. The registration of professionals included 1,336 ISN members and 1,614 non-ISN members plus invited speakers, students, and day registrants [254]. Overall, 97 countries were represented including, in descending rank order, Japan (536 registrants), Australia (238), USA (239), Italy (240), Germany (128), Korea (128), China (123), and the United Kingdom (111) [254].

The Opening Ceremony and Reception was held on a beautiful evening in the world-famous Sydney Opera House. The evening opened with a rendition of Australia's national anthem by the Youth Orchestra and the Fanfare Trumpeters, followed by a performance by an aboriginal dance company and brief welcomes from Congress President Atkins and Australia's Minister of Health. In his own Welcoming Address, ISN President Schrier emphasized the internationality of the Society and the global reach and mission of Nephrology [255]. He

noted that there is enormous inequality in the worldwide delivery of health care, including the care of those with kidney disease. He recalled with pride the commitment of the ISN to the advancement of nephrology in developing countries while also acknowledging that “*we have many more hills to climb*” [255]. Thereafter, the guests were treated to a spectacular performance by the Song Company, the Youth Orchestra, and James Morrison, one of Australia’s foremost jazz musicians.

As in Jerusalem and Madrid, the thematic approach was again applied to the organization of the scientific program [252]. The final format provided a detailed focus on seven themes of importance in 1997; renal development, transport and genetics; environmental kidney disease; acute renal failure; immune-mediated kidney disease; dialysis and transplantation; hypertension; and progression of chronic kidney disease. Overall, there were four plenary sessions that included a total of eight lectures on a variety of timely topics, for example, the kidney and the human genome project, genetic engineering, and the molecular therapy of kidney diseases.

The A.N. Richards Award was presented to Professors Alexander Leaf (USA) and Klaus Thurau (Germany) by Gerhard Giebisch, and the J. Hamburger Award was given to Renee Habib (France) and Priscilla Kincaid-Smith (Australia) by J. Stewart Cameron. The Seldin Lecture was delivered on Endothelin by M. Yanagisawa (Japan) and introduced by M. Imai (Japan). Another outstanding feature of the Congress was the delivery of the first Claude Amiel Lecture by D. Bichet on nephrogenic diabetes insidius. This lecture was created in memory of Claude Amiel, who had served the Society and its journal continuously from 1971 until his untimely death in 1996. The Society was enormously pleased by the presence of Claude Amiel’s widow, Janette, and their son, Antoine, at this first lecture in honor of their husband and father, who had been, and still is, admired and respected by all.

As in previous Congresses, a simultaneous program of continuing education was offered throughout the Congress, although its format differed somewhat from that utilized previously. Major presentations were offered each morning and smaller interactive sessions on controversial topics were held in the afternoons.

The Congress was preceded by yet another first, namely, the provision of an International Training Course on May 22–23, 1997 as part of an International Scholarship Program [256]. The aim of the course was to provide young nephrologists in either training or clinical practice from the Asian Pacific region with an update on the themes embedded in the main Congress program. Sixty individuals from the region were selected by their national society and each scholar was required to spend one week in an Australian or New Zealand Renal Unit immediately prior to participation in the two-day train-



Fig. 23. ISN President R.W. Schrier, Past ISN President R.R. Robinson, and President of the XIII ISN Congress, Luis Hernando in conversation during the XIV ISN Congress in Sydney, 1997. (Courtesy of R.W. Schrier)

ing course. The program was judged by all to have been an outstanding success.

Still another “first” was provided by the provision of commercially sponsored symposia on special topics in the evenings just prior to the Congress and just after its opening.

A Congress Proceedings was not produced, but a CD-ROM containing the major presentations was distributed to participants after the Congress.

Six satellite conferences were held throughout Australia after the Congress. One of the most unique was a conference on kidney disease in indigenous native populations at Ayers Rock in central Australia.

The Social Program was equally impressive (Fig. 23), ranging from a fabulous Opening Ceremony in the Opera House (which reflected much of Australia’s cultural heritage) to a smashing evening “party” harborside in the Overseas Passenger Terminal near the “Rocks,” complete with food, drink, entertainment, and arrival of the famous tall ship H.M.S. Bounty with a particularly rowdy crew. Complimentary cruises of Sydney Harbor were provided for all registrants. The President’s dinner was held in Parliament House and the publisher of the Society’s journal, Blackwell Science, hosted a special dinner at a Sydney restaurant in honor of Tom Andreoli’s retirement after 13 years of superb service at the editorial helm of *Kidney International*, and Craig Tisher’s exemplary service as the Society’s Treasurer since 1990.

This Congress was successful financially, and its profit was divided equally between the ISN and the Australian and New Zealand Society. Forty percent of the ISN share was pledged to the support of programs in the Asian Pacific region. The profitability of the Congress was occasioned largely by the registration of a much larger than expected number of non-ISN professionals. Corporate

sponsorship contributed greatly to the excess of revenue over expense, much to the benefit of worthy nephrological programs worldwide.

The Executive and Management Committees met first on Sunday, May 25, 1997 [257, 258]. Secretary General Weening provided exciting evidence of the growing prominence of the society's programs [259]. The Fellowship program (whose expense budget for 1997 was US \$607,500) had accommodated 37 new Fellows since June 1995. Overall, by April 1997, since the inception of the program, 131 Fellowships had been selected from 575 applicants had been awarded. Twenty-five Fellowships were awarded in 1996, the most ever in a single year [259]. Of the 131 Fellows, 21% were from China, 21% from elsewhere in Asia, 21% from Latin America, 11% from Africa, 9% from the Middle East and 16% from Central and Eastern Europe. G. Remuzzi was named to replace K. Thurau on the Fellowship Committee. Visiting Senior Scholars were welcomed in Iran and Indonesia in 1996 and in Nigeria and Egypt in 1997. ISN travel grants of US \$1,000 each were awarded to 109 nephrologists to attend the Congress, two-thirds of whom derived from a developing country. Almost 250 renal centers from around the world were said to have expressed interest in participating in the Renal Sisters Program.

Impressively, thanks to C.C. Tisher's leadership, the library enhancement program had grown to include 200 libraries throughout the world. Distribution of free subscriptions to *KI*, educational slide sets, and free textbooks of nephrology from participating publishers was heavily concentrated in Asia and Central/Eastern Europe and growing in Latin America. Of equal importance from a managerial point-of-view was the successful transition of the Treasurer's Office from Gainesville, Florida to Atlanta, Georgia, where W.E. Mitch would assume the responsibility of Treasurer immediately after the Sydney Congress. Craig Tisher had served the Society well during his tenure as Treasurer, his administration being marked by increasing orderliness of all financial processes. His was an accountable administration.

The Commission on the Global Advance of Nephrology (now referred to by all as COMGAN) was increasingly active [246]. Its Co-Chairs, B.M. Brenner and J. Dirks, noted that the Commission thus far had focused mainly on on-site lectures with an emphasis on the diagnosis and management of kidney disease. Between 1995 and 1997, its two Co-Chairs and the members of its subcommittees had visited over 60 countries, organized 25 postgraduate courses, and conducted 35 fact-finding missions. As urged by the Executive, COMGAN began to assume increasing responsibility for the administration or oversight of the Fellowship and Renal Sister Programs. The Commission was also involved prominently in the development and application of improved stan-

dards for fellowships or participation in the Renal Sisters program. Other duties surrounded the development of efficient administrative processes, including an ever-present need for better methods of communication between the ISN, COMGAN, national societies, participants in the library enhancement program, ISN Fellows, and individual representatives of developing countries. Hopefully, the ISN web site could be used increasingly for the distribution of relevant information, as well as the dissemination of lists of national centers, Renal Sister Centers, nephrologists, etc.

A report from the Committee on Ethics, led by J.S. Cameron, reflected the fact that the Executive had been long concerned by the use of certain types of donors, for example, executed prisoners or paid living donors, in kidney transplantation. Cameron had assembled an international group to examine this and related issues as a prelude to whether the ISN should take a public position on ethical issues relevant to transplantation [260]. The Executive considered J.S. Cameron's detailed report and concluded that the issues were sufficiently complex that it would be best to avoid an official position at this time.

Leadership of the Commission on Acute Renal Failure was transferred to N. Lameire (Belgium) in June 1997. This Commission had been especially active since its founding under the leadership of K. Solez. For example, in but one related area, four conferences on allograft pathology had been held in Canada; the last one was held in March 1997 and had attracted 140 people.

The Informatics Committee, also under the leadership of K. Solez, was upgraded to the status of a Commission on Informatics. Actually, while serving as Chair of the Commission on Acute Renal Failure in 1994, K. Solez and M. Hayes had initiated the ISN homepage on the Internet and the NEPHROL e-mail discussion group. Thus far, using the Internet, Nephro-L/Digest included 718 persons in its subscriber group and the discussion group had grown to include 182 subscribers from 40 countries worldwide. An effort was underway to provide used computer equipment to developing countries. Plans were also well underway to create a cybernephrology facility at the University of Alberta (Canada) under the direction of K. Solez. This infrastructure, perhaps best seen at <http://www.cybernephrology.org>, has been favorable to the continuing development of informatics in nephrology. It is supported mainly by the National Kidney Foundation (USA) with direct and indirect corporate support, but it also involves supportive or collaborative associations with the ISN, the University of Alberta, and the Renal Pathology Society [261]. One outstanding achievement was the presentation of 2,500 color images and PowerPoint files from a five-volume *Atlas of Diseases of the Kidney* at <http://www.kidneyatlas.org> [262]. It would be a server in this facility that would continue



Fig. 24. ISN President-Elect Kurokawa and ISN President Schrier at the podium during the XIV ISN Congress in Sydney, 1997. (Courtesy of R.W. Schrier)

to maintain the ISN home page on the world-wide web at <http://www.isn-online.org> [262]. Later, the Renal-Tech Computer Donation program would be added at <http://www.renal-tech.org> [262].

Professor Giebisch relinquished his leadership of the Forefronts Conferences during the Sydney Congress. Since the first Conference in 1988, G. Giebisch had guided the development of 17 such Conferences, the last to be held on “Genetics and Genes in Hypertension” in Berlin in September, 1997. He would be succeeded by H. Murer (Switzerland) and R. Alpern (USA) as Co-Directors.

Leon Fine, Chair of the History Commission, reported that the Commission’s activities included the Video Legacy Project, maintenance of the archives, and the provision of special presentations, etc., at various meetings, including the Congresses. A preview of the first videos had been given by Professors Solez and Cameron at the First Congress of the International Association for the History of Nephrology in Kos, Greece, in 1996 [263].

President Schrier offered a full report on all ISN programs at the meeting of the General Assembly on May 27, 1997 (Fig. 24). He was especially pleased that there were then “110 Renal Sister Center paired relationships,” and that they had been recognized officially at the Congress. These links represented 57 countries in the developing world and 17 in the developed world [264]. He was equally and justifiably pleased by the 39% increase in ISN membership since 1996 that was occasioned by the joint membership program [264]. The Society was constantly revising its Constitution, partly to meet changing needs more effectively, but also because the original version had proved so difficult to implement. New proposed amendments to the 1993 ISN Constitution just ratified were developed for future presentation to the general membership [265]. The approved amendments

included an acknowledgment of the joint membership program among the various membership categories, deletion of the requirement for membership applications to be endorsed by two members in good standing (an impractical requirement that had been circumvented often in various ways, especially during the 1970s), and the election of Council members by mail ballot, effective in 1999 [265].

T.E. Andreoli offered his last editorial report just prior to the transfer of editorial responsibilities to Saulo Klahr. The journal had exhibited phenomenal growth under Tom Andreoli’s stewardship [200]. In 1996, *KI* received 929 original manuscripts, a 2.2-fold increase since 1984. Submissions of all types of manuscripts equaled 1,217, a 2.65 increase over 1984. Over the period 1986–96, a sixfold increase in original manuscripts had been received from Asian Pacific countries. Paid subscriptions for 1996 were 9,559, approximately 2,250 more than in 1984. The final ISN profit for 1996 was US \$732,000, which was an order of magnitude greater than in 1984. Tom Andreoli deserves prominent recognition for this achievement, a fact which he would be quick to share with his Associate Editors (C. Amiel, J. Knochel, J.J. Weening, and H.R. Jacobson), the Consulting Editors, the Editorial Board, the referees and the editors of the enormously popular “Nephrology Forum” [J. Cohen, J. Harrington, N. Madias, and J. Kassirer (until he assumed the editorship of *The New England Journal of Medicine*)].

The Council met also on May 25th and considered presentations from the European Renal Association (ERA), the African Association of Nephrology (AFRAN) and the Turkish Society for sponsorship of the ISN Congress in 2003 [266]. The Council voted in favor of the ERA, although a final decision as to the exact European venue had not yet been made. Similarly, agreement had not yet been reached on shared financial obligations.

Thomas E. Andreoli was elected President-Elect and Robert C. Atkins was voted Vice-President for the period 1997–99. Two nominees for each open Councilor position were presented to the general membership for election (8 nominees for 4 European positions; 6 nominees for 3 Asian Pacific positions; 2 nominees for one North American position).

The second meeting of the Executive and Management Committees was held on May 29th under the leadership of the new President, Kiyoshi Kurokawa [267]. The growing complexity of ISN programs was stressed and he cautioned against overly aggressive expansion, which might compromise the Society’s financial resources.

It was at this meeting that reconstruction of the Management Committee was undertaken. For reasons long hidden in the mist of early intra-organizational conflict, the 1978 Constitution had excluded the Vice President and the Past President as members of the committee. It was agreed that a future Constitutional revision should

include these two officers, as well as the rest of the Executive Committee, as members of the Management Committee.

The new Council met on May 30th [268]. Newly elected members included V. Sitprija (Thailand), A.R. Clarkson (Australia), E. Ritz (Germany), C. Ponticelli (Italy), C. Mogensen (Denmark), A. Rees (UK), and J. Briggs (USA). Most discussion surrounded the organization, programs, and funding of the Renal Sister Program, including the need for more definitive eligibility guidelines. Representatives from almost 180 of the 220–250 linked institutions had attended the recognition ceremony for Renal Sister Centers. It was hoped that ongoing relationships would be sustained over many years. The ISN would need to stay involved and annual reports should be required [268]. Since ISN funding would be limited or nonexistent, the prestige, opportunity for travel, and the personal satisfaction derived from successful participation in an ISN-sponsored program remained central to the recruitment of centers in developed countries. COMGAN had also conducted an impressive number of visits worldwide. In Asia alone, Co-Chairs Kurokawa and Sitprija sponsored educational programs in China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Iran, Korea, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and New Guinea. Equally noteworthy visits or meetings were conducted by the Commission's subcommittees for Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (the former Soviet Union) and Middle East [268].

The Council was pleased to learn that almost 100 persons had attended the meeting on the possible establishment of an international clinical trials network. An enormous undertaking burdened with the inherent political difficulties of conducting a clinical trial across national borders utilizing common criteria. Only time would tell if the effort would bear fruit.

The Sydney Congress brought to a close the many activities of the 1995–97 period. In his final report, President Schrier emphasized the multitudinous nature of ISN programs, now numbering nine overall. . . . and growing [264]. R.W. Schrier's tenure reflected a heavy emphasis on strengthening the ISN commitment to the advance of nephrology in developing or emerging countries as reflected by the joint membership program, the Renal Sisters program, and increased support of COMGAN. The groundwork for these programs had been laid earlier, but it was during the 1995–97 period that they were thrust forward with increasing vigor. The response to the joint membership program had been exceedingly positive by the time of the Sydney Congress. Formation of the ISN Renal Sister Program, a program designed to foster collaboration between centers in developed countries and those in the developing world by participating in conjoint research and education programs with

shared faculty, students and equipment, had elicited an equally impressive response.

Other new programs included the Committee on Computerized Information Co-Chaired by K. Solez and Z. Agus. This Commission initiated the ISN Home Page on the worldwide web which would include increasingly extensive information on ISN programs. All of the above efforts were grafted onto mature and successful programs long in place: the Forefronts Conferences, the Fellowship program, and the program that many continued to view as the Society's crown jewel, namely, *Kidney International*. The period 1995–97 had witnessed another "great leap forward."

THE INTER-CONGRESS PERIOD, 1997–1999

The new Executive Committee was led by the Society's first President from Asia, Kiyoshi Kurokawa (Japan). It also included Past-President R.W. Schrier, President-Elect T.E. Andreoli, Vice President R.C. Atkins (Australia), Secretary-General J.J. Weening, Treasurer W.E. Mitch (USA), and Editor S. Klahr (USA). Councilors M.J. Field (Australia) and R. Barsoum (Egypt) were added to the Management Committee. The 1997–99 Nominating Committee would include J. Dirks (Chair), T. Druke (France), M. Imai (Japan), S. Naicker (South Africa) and R. Zatz (Brazil).

The new President offered a finely crafted and insightful view of his Office and the Society's future in a report in *Kidney International* [269]. He had been notified of his candidacy for election only a short time before the Madrid Congress and he had worried that he might not be suitably prepared to lead the burgeoning number of ISN programs. Time would prove that such was not the case.

In his report, the new President declared his commitment to COMGAN and his enthusiasm for the 1999 Congress in Buenos Aires, the first to be held in Latin America. He concluded by noting the tragic death of Ross Bailey of New Zealand, Vice President of the Sydney Congress and an ISN Councilor, while participating in an ISN-sponsored course in Sri Lanka as part of a COMGAN program. Dr. Bailey was honored by the creation of the Ross Bailey ISN Fellowship for study in New Zealand.

The new Executive and Management Committees and the full Council held their first interim meetings in San Antonio, Texas, USA, on November 1 and 5, 1997 [270–272]. The Society continued its search for a fair and acceptable template for sharing the distribution of financial profit from each ISN Congress with the local Organizing Committee or regional society. Since 1990, such profit had been shared routinely but never according to the same formula. The exact relationship between the ISN and the local organizers of its Congresses

was still evolving from the time when sponsorship was entirely a local financial responsibility, to a period when ISN input was limited to provision of a no-interest loan without subsequent profit sharing, to the provision of a more or less voluntary share by the Local Committee as in Tokyo, to sharing proportionate to the ISN financial contribution, or to a 50/50 arrangement as in Sydney. Still another formula would apply to the conjoint meeting with the American Society in 2001. Much of this evolutionary approach to profit-sharing paralleled the growing input of the ISN into the financial and program outline of its Congresses, an objective that required close coordination with its new regional partners. In part, the changing patterns of profit-sharing reflected appropriately on differing regional circumstances and traditions, including the financial and organizational strengths of societies in different parts of the world. Nevertheless, at the meeting of the Executive Committee in San Antonio on November 1, the Treasurer was asked to draft a permanent guideline for profit-sharing at future Congress, including definition of the limits of flexibility that would be acceptable [270].

Good news was provided by the growth in ISN membership, occasioned in substantial part by the joint membership program. ISN membership grew dramatically from 6,520 in 1994 [200] to 8,738 in 1997 [273].

Following several discussions during the recent past on the probable need for permanent managerial assistance in the conduct of ISN affairs, T.E. Andreoli proposed and the Executive agreed that a permanent Secretariat should now be established. The extended search for a permanent Society office had now come to a close and Secretary-General Weening was charged with its establishment. He was asked to relocate the Society's archives in the same location as that of the permanent Secretariat. It was agreed that the Secretariat could be located anywhere in Europe but that Amsterdam would be a desirable choice, if possible.

For many years, at least until the election of President Kurokawa, many had understood unofficially that presidential leadership of the Society would alternate successively between Europe and the Americas. Further, although never required by the 1978 Constitution, it had followed thereafter that the Vice President became President-Elect with but one exception. Henceforth, it was agreed that the presidential rotation should follow an Asia-Americas-Europe sequence and that the automatic ascendancy of the Vice President to the Presidency should be acknowledged by a change in the Constitution. Accordingly, the 1999–2001 Vice President should be European. Additionally, it was agreed that the Council should be expanded from 21 to 25 Councilors since Asia, the Middle East, and Africa were relatively under-represented, and the number of nominees for each open position should be reduced from three to two. The 1997–99

Nominating Committee was authorized to hold an interim meeting in advance of the 1998 meeting of the Council.

The Commission on Acute Renal Failure, under the new leadership of N. Lameire, noted that it had been asked to select the recipient of the new Bywaters Award, an award sponsored jointly by *Renal Failure* and Hoechst Marion Roussel.

The Task Force on Clinical Trials continued its challenging but thus far unsuccessful organizational efforts. It was agreed tentatively that it would be Co-Chaired by a representative from the USA and Europe. A proposed Coordinating Committee would be comprised initially of 10 individuals, including seven ISN representatives from differing regions of the world, plus one representative each from the American Society, the National Kidney Foundation (USA) and the European Renal Association. The Committee would focus importantly on the identification of issues in need of study by clinical trial, including the provision of education and training in the conduct of clinical trials. The ISN Executive agreed to support this conjoint effort (with the other aforementioned societies) by the annual appropriation of US \$50,000 for two years.

The Nominating Committee for 1999–2001 was appointed by President-Elect Andreoli. Dr. Wadi Suki (USA) would chair the committee, assisted by R. Barsoum (Egypt), M. de Mello Aires (Brazil), P. Ronco (France), and S. Sasaki (Japan).

COMGAN held a successful continuing education course for 350 participants in Moscow and another (the largest ever) for 400 physicians and 400 nurses/technicians in Istanbul. Other courses were held in Nanjing, China, and Durban, South Africa. The Executive continued to struggle to achieve better coordination of this valuable but far-flung program, one that involved ISN Officers and Councilors, the many representatives of the COMGAN Committees, national societies, sister centers, and others.

The selection process for an ISN Fellowship now involved a review by many more individuals than was formerly the case, although it was yet to be established whether an administratively more complicated process would improve the selection of Fellows who met ISN standards and requirements. In brief, the new process required each application to be reviewed first by five referees from the region of origin, then by the Chair or Vice-Chair of the relevant COMGAN Subcommittee, and then by the governing ISN Fellowship Committee. The addition of funding from Kirin Brewery in support of a Fellow for study in Japan effected an increase in the budget to US \$607,500 [272].

Monitoring the ongoing activities of the growing number of Commissions provided a continual challenge for the Executive Committee. A managerial challenge of

substantive proportions was presented by the growing number of complex programs whose ultimate need for financial support far outstripped the availability of ISN resources. A number of questions were deserving of address: Were the Commissions meeting their stated goals and objectives according to high standards? What modifications of Commission programs might be necessary? Were monies, whether provided by the ISN or raised from external sources, being used wisely and appropriately? Was the desired internationality of Commission representatives being maintained? Were the new programs having the desired impact on their constituencies? To facilitate the Society's oversight of these and other issues, it was agreed that an annual report would be required of each Commission and that their programs would be evaluated every four years [272].

1998

The next interim meetings of the Executive and Management Committees and the Council were held in Philadelphia on October 24 and 28, 1998. Reflective of a mature and financially stable Society, it was agreed to broaden the categories eligible for Honorary ISN Membership from Past Presidents alone to past Commission Chairs, members of the Executive Committee, and Forefront Conference Directors. Future nominees would be proposed by the President, endorsed by the Executive Committee, and ratified by the General Assembly. Thus far, through 1997, only the Past-Presidents, G. Giebisch (Forefronts Director), C. Amiel (Secretary-General), and C. Gottschalk (History Commission) had been so honored.

The Executive continued to worry about whether a sufficient number of ISN Fellows were returning to their home country upon completion of their training. From 1985 to 97, as many as 25% of the Fellows had not returned [274], and this undesirable outcome seemed to be more frequent recently, in contrast to the early experience soon after the foundation of the program. Since 1996, in recognition of this challenge, the Society had required each Fellow to sign a commitment to return to his or her home country or refund the monetary value of the award over a period of 5 years [274].

The Visiting Senior Scholar program continued to attract few applicants. Originally, it had been hoped that it would encourage an extended working visit to an emerging country by an established nephrologist from a recognized unit in a developed country. Interest had proved to be limited and the award was made increasingly for shorter and shorter visits, even including a brief visit by a representative of a unit in a developed country to its sister link in the developing world.

Recently, the American Society, whose annual scientific meeting had become increasingly attractive to the

international community, had also begun to direct its attention to the advancement of nephrology in developing countries. For example, in 1997, it had asked the ISN to identify 15 Fellows from developing countries for receipt of an ASN travel grant to attend the 1998 annual ASN meeting, and an increasing number of international representatives had been included on the Editorial Board of its journal, the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*. In part, the internationality of the annual scientific meeting of the American Society had heightened even more the difficulty of attracting first presentations of original research at the infrequent triennial or biennial meetings of the ISN Congresses, a hurdle that had been set in place at the Society's very beginning and never surmounted. It remains to be seen if the American Society's entry into continuing education abroad would be competitive, complementary, or shared with long-standing ISN interests and programs in emerging nations.

The Renal Sister Program continued to grow, although still lacking in individual central leadership. Since 1997, the program had increased from 125 to 144 linkages although some were tenuous and not yet developed fully. Only a very small fraction were functioning in a manner that had been envisioned initially in Sydney. Nevertheless, the potential for future development was real indeed.

Looking ahead to the 2005 Congress, applications were received from the Turkish, Indian and Singapore Societies of Nephrology. On the surface, if approved without the parallel involvement of a larger regional society, an ISN Congress held conjointly with the regular meeting of a national society such as these would represent a distinct departure from the original attempt, in 1990–93, to effect conjoint meetings with much larger regional societies as was the case in 1997 and 1999. The 2001 conjoint meeting with the American Society might seem to be an exception until it is recognized that the large American Society is truly the regional society for North America since nephrologists from the USA, Canada, and Mexico are eligible for membership. The conjoint meeting with the ERA in 2003 is still another example of holding an ISN Congress in association with the regularly scheduled meeting of a large regional society.

The Committee on Computerized Information or Informatics continued to expand its computer donation program. Color teaching images were included on the ISN Home Page and on CD-ROM for distribution to developing countries. The new facility in Edmonton, Canada now supported the cybernephrology program of the National Kidney Foundation (USA), and the ISN Home Page on the world-wide web and the Video Legacy Program. As many as 2,000 individuals now participated in the internet discussion groups.

Of special note during the 1998 meetings was the report of the Nominating Committee on candidates for

the Office of Secretary General. Dr R. Barsoum (Egypt) was elected unanimously as the first ISN Executive Officer from the continent of Africa [275]. He would assume his responsibilities officially at the end of the Buenos Aires Congress.

The Commission on Acute Renal Failure described its plans to hold a satellite meeting in Santiago, Chile, after the Buenos Aires Congress, and noted that it was working with COMGAN to assess the adequacy of dialysis support in developing countries so that its Disaster Relief Force would be better informed in case of need.

The Commission on Clinical Trials experienced a reversal in its organizational plans. Instead of joining hands with the ISN as originally hoped, the American Society had decided to establish its own effort independently. The ERA wished to collaborate but was unable to contribute financially to the program. However, the National Kidney Foundation had agreed to contribute financially and would be represented on the Commission by two individuals. The Co-Chairs of the proposed new Commission would be S. Massry (USA) and R. DeZeeuw (Netherlands). Additional representatives would be included from Europe, the USA, Australia, Japan, Africa, Latin America, and the Cochrane Group. Hopefully, its initial programs would include an educational program on clinical trials in Buenos Aires and the design of a curriculum for a Fellowship in clinical trials and epidemiology. Eventually, the Commission hoped to develop a worldwide registry of active clinical trials, a priority list of needed trials, and an appropriate method for securing additional financial support [275].

For the period July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998, a total of 1,043 new manuscripts were received by *Kidney International*, of which 930 were original unsolicited submissions [276]. Approximately 59% of the original papers dealt with basic research whereas 44% concerned clinical studies. Thirty-seven percent derived from North America, 41% from Europe, 17% from Asia, 2% from Australia/New Zealand and Latin America, and 1% from Africa. As of September 30, 1998, total ISN membership was 7,980, inclusive of 1,509 new and renewed joint members.

Saulo Klahr's leadership of the *Kidney International* had led to several innovative changes in its style. The front cover was composed of a color photograph derived from an article in that same issue; the table of contents was segregated into a larger number of more descriptive categories; and appropriate changes in type font and layout were made, all very suitable for entry into the 21st century! Effective in 1999, the Management Committee agreed to increase the member's discounted payment to Blackwell Science for each *KI* subscription to US \$85, and to increase total ISN dues from US \$120 to US \$150 in 2000 [276].

Even the briefest examination of the proposed original

budget for calendar year 1999 reflects the enormous growth of the Society's programs since its impoverished beginning in 1960 [273]. Total income was estimated at US \$1,987,000, of which \$620,500 was due to the publisher for *KI* subscriptions and \$607,500 was budgeted for ISN Fellowships (inclusive of US \$90,000 from the American Society and US \$22,500 from the Japanese Society). There was \$51,000 for the Forefronts Conferences, \$120,000 for ISN Travel Awards to the Buenos Aires Congress, \$250,000 to COMGAN, \$30,000 for Presidentially selected postgraduate courses in developing countries, \$5000 for the library enhancement program, \$35,000 for the Buenos Aires Congress (in addition to \$100,000 in 1997–98), \$47,000 for the Clinical Trials Commission, and \$40,000 for the activities of other Commissions (all US dollars). The growing administrative burden and responsibility for directing the Society's far-flung programs was underscored vividly by the necessary growth in the expense of operating the offices of the Secretary General (\$110,000) and the Treasurer (\$115,000). Considering the fact that the Treasurer's office served additionally as the circulation office for *KI* and that a permanent Secretariat would soon be established in Amsterdam, the total expense for operating these two offices "in house" was felt to be less expensive than would have been the case had they been assigned to a professional management company.

THE FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, MAY 2–6, 1999

The Fifteenth Congress was sponsored jointly by the ISN, the Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension (President, P.U. Massari, Argentina) and the Argentine Society of Nephrology (President, Elsa Piulats) [277]. Significantly, the XVth ICN was held alongside the Eleventh Congress of the Latin American Congress of Nephrology. The Executive of the Local Organizing Committee included President E.E. Arrizurieta, Vice Presidents C.A. Carreño, O. Alvarez, M.A. Nadal and E. Piulats; Secretary-General R.S. Martin, and Treasurer G. Long. The Scientific Program Committee was Co-Chaired by representatives of the ISN and The Latin American Society: E. Ritz (Germany) and M. Martinez Maldonado (USA), respectively. Vice Chairs of the Committee were S. Hebert (USA) and B. Rodriguez-Iturbe (Venezuela), who represented the ISN and The Latin American Society, respectively. They were joined by other representatives from the United States, Sweden, Italy, Japan, Germany, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil and Chile. E. Bellorin-Font (Venezuela) and R.D. Toto (USA) served as Co-Coordination of the parallel program in continuing medical education [277]. The Social Committee was Co-Chaired by L. De Benedetti and

A. Marini; the important Scholarship Committee was Co-Chaired by C. Agost-Carreño and P.U. Massari, and M.A. Nadal coordinated the activities in continuing education [277].

The venue for this Congress was provided by two hotels close to the heart of Buenos Aires, the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel and Towers and the Marriott Plaza Hotel [277]. In a bit of a departure from previous Congresses, yet also reflecting the fact that this Congress represented a truly conjoint meeting with that of a major regional society, the official language was English while the sessions programmed by the Latin American Society were offered additionally in Spanish and Portuguese [277].

The early registration fee for ISN members was US \$500. The total registration was 5,232, including 4,277 nephrologists, 60 nurses or technicians, 43 former ISN Fellows [270], and 480 guests or accompanying members [278]. Overall, approximately 77% of the lectures were in English and 23% in Spanish or Portuguese [278].

The Opening Ceremony was held on Sunday evening, May 2, 1999, in the Teatro Colon, the world-famous opera house of Buenos Aires [277]. Participants were welcomed by the Presidents of the Local Committee, the ISN and the Latin American Society and then treated to a superb display of music and dancing, including an outstanding tango group and selected examples of rousing folklorica. The Opening Ceremony was followed by a reception at the Crowne Plaza-Pan American Hotel [277].

The Scientific Program was divided into five major themes over a four day period. Theme 1 on renal injury and repair focused on mechanisms of epithelial cell injury and repair, toxicity of proteinuria, and clinical and therapeutic aspects of acute renal failure. Theme 2 on diabetes and the kidney included a consideration of genetic markers for diabetic nephropathy, mechanisms of injury including the role of transforming growth factor- β and endothelial growth factor, factors in the progression of diabetic glomerulopathy, and topics relevant to early detection and the epidemiology of diabetic nephropathy. Theme 3 on dialysis centered on discussions of the optimal time for the initiation of replacement therapy, the role and use of peritoneal dialysis, dialyzer reuse, the control and prevention of hepatitis and infection, and cardiovascular complications of dialysis. Theme 4 on transplantation considered a number of contemporary issues, including the use of unrelated living donors, prospects for the induction of tolerance, pathways for T-cell activation, long-term complications such as viral infection, and an in-depth look at the future of transplantation. Theme 5 on hormones and the kidney examined orphan receptors and their agonists, new advances in understanding of the renin-angiotension system, the pathophysiological role of the renal kinin system, and varied aspects of nitric oxide and intracellular signaling.

As in Sydney, the Congress was complemented by a

Training Course for 48 young nephrologists [279] from Latin America under the joint direction of C.A. Carreño and P.U. Massari [277]. Selection of candidates was made by the Local Organizing Committee from names brought forward by the relevant national society [277]. Each trainee spent one week in a Latin American Unit (in either Argentina, Brazil or Chile) and then participated in a two-day course immediately prior to the Congress.

The Congress was preceded on May 1–2 by a first Joint Congress for Nurses and Technicians under the lead sponsorship of the World Council for Renal Care [277]. Approximately 420 individuals were in attendance. Its aim was the establishment of contact between the World Council and local nurses as part of an ongoing effort to improve the care of patients with kidney disease.

The Congress also included several sessions on continuing medical education. In fact, the overall format of this Congress differed substantively from that of most of the earlier Congresses. A typical day began with several simultaneous symposia unrelated to the five themes. There then followed a plenary session, a poster session during the lunch hour, simultaneous two-hour symposia relevant to the five themes and, at the end of the day, parallel sessions pertaining to continuing education [277].

Each of the four Plenary Sessions was highlighted by the delivery of one of the two ISN-named lectures and the presentation of one of the Society's two awards. The Seldin Lecture was given by T. Kishimoto (Japan) on cytokines and chemokines; the Amiel Lecture was delivered by R. Lifton (USA) on the role of the kidney on blood pressure variation. The Richards Award was presented to H. Ussing (Denmark) and I. Edelman (USA) by T.E. Andreoli, and the Hamburger Award was given to R.H. Heptinstall and B.M. Brenner by I. Ichikawa [277].

Overall, the Congress included 18 Symposia on topics unrelated to the themes and 20 Symposia as part of the five themes [277]. There were no oral presentations of selected abstracts. The presentation of original work was restricted to four poster sessions of two-and-one-half hours duration which accommodated a total of 1,839 posters. Predictably, in view of the venue and the simultaneous meeting with the Latin American Society, 20% of the poster presentations were from Latin America (Argentina and Brazil leading the list with 164 and 95 presentations, respectively). The single largest block of posters (about one-third) derived from the developed countries of Western Europe; the Asian Pacific region (including India, Pakistan and Bangladesh) ranked next highest with 24%. There was a gratifyingly large number from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union (9%). Yet another indication of a changing world was reflected by 102 (5.5%) posters from China, a far cry from past Congresses when there may have been none. Most disappointing, however, was the fact that there were only 136 poster presentations (7.3%) from



Fig. 25. ISN President Kurokawa and Congress President E.E. Arrizurieta in conversation during the President's Dinner at The Hotel Alvear Palace, Buenos Aires, 1999. (Courtesy of E.E. Arrizurieta)

North America, just a few more than the total number presented from China. Nevertheless, the Congress was a clear financial success, of which the ISN received a substantial share.

Five satellite conferences were held immediately after the Congress in Cordoba, Argentina; Foz de Iquazú and Guarujá, Brazil; Santiago, Chile; and Punta del Este, Uruguay [277].

The social program was outstanding and reflected the cosmopolitan and sophisticated character of Buenos Aires, plus the generosity, grace and hospitality of the hosts. From the Opening Ceremony in the beautiful Teatro Colon, to the Farewell Barbecue for 4,500 guests with its introduction to world-famous Argentine beef, the amenities and hospitality were second to none [279]. To complement these activities, Presidents Kurokawa and Massari hosted an ISN/SLANH Presidential Dinner at the Palacio Retiro-Circulo Militar, and were joined by President Arrizurieta in hosting an elegant dinner in the Roof Garden of the Alvear Palace Hotel (Fig. 25). A host of exciting tours were available for all who wished to see more of the surrounding countryside or region.

The Management and Executive Committees met first on Sunday, May 2nd [279]. The Secretary-General noted that the Executive had endorsed the establishment of a permanent Secretariat at its meeting in November 1998 [280]. Such an office would provide a stable source of continuity for the administration of ISN programs as future Secretary-Generals changed. The Secretariat would be housed in Amsterdam and Ms. I. Huang was appointed as the first Executive Director. The Society's Archives would soon be transferred from London and the offices of Leon Fine to a location in the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam (near the ISN Secretariat). The famous ISN model sailing ship, a souvenir of

the first and many subsequent Congresses, would be stored at the Amsterdam Archives.

The Fellowship program received a record number of applicants in 1998, and 120 travel grants were awarded for attendance at the Buenos Aires Congress (including several former ISN Fellows who had completed their training within the last four years). One 1998 award was made to a Senior Visiting Scholar who wished to spend two weeks at a Renal Sister Center.

The Executive was pleased that the mail ballot for the 1999 general election of Councilors, published in the January and March 1999 issues of *KI* had yielded over 800 submitted ballots [280], the largest total ever (perhaps 200 or so in Sydney in 1997). Nevertheless, the total still fell far short of the desired number and plans were made to improve the process even further in 2001.

Communication with current and prospective ISN members and the leadership of their national societies continued to be a problem, as it had from the Society's onset. Improved, no doubt, but still uneven and unpredictable despite editorials, announcements and news in *KI*; brochures and surveys; scheduled meetings with national Presidents during each Congress; COMGAN travels and meetings; Renal Sister Center and Fellowship programs; and the advent of an ISN web site. Further, the interface between the leadership of national societies and their own constituencies was often blurred and unreliable, and many were still unfamiliar with ISN programs. For example, only 45 of the Renal Sister links had even returned the 1997 and 1998 questionnaires and, of the 48 young Latin American nephrologists who participated in the Training Course before the Buenos Aires Congress, many were no more than vaguely familiar with relevant ISN programs [279]. It was hoped that the planned introduction of a newsletter would provide still another vehicle in the search for effective communication.

A copy of "Blueprint 2000–2005" for COMGAN had been distributed which listed its ordered priorities as: (1) promotion of the Renal Sister Program and the technological transfer of relevant educational materials; (2) reorganization of COMGAN; (3) a need for further resources; (4) postgraduate courses; (5) consensus conferences; (6) an expanded library enhancement program; (7) establishment of research programs in developing programs; and (8) stronger linkages with other associations. The first-ever meeting in the Middle East was held in Dubai in 1998 and was attended by almost 500 doctors [281]. Still another request was made for the creation of a fund-raising committee with strong leadership and a well developed strategy [279].

The Commission on Acute Renal Failure under the leadership of N. Lameire continued its activities with a planned post-Congress satellite conference in Chile. Its most challenging problem had been the provision of dialysis and relevant supplies for a large number of patients



Fig. 26. ISN President Kurokawa, Congress President E.E. Arrizurieta, ISN President-Elect T.E. Andreoli and the ISN Council, XV ISN Congress, Buenos Aires, May 1999. (Courtesy of K. Solez)

with chronic renal failure who had been forced to leave Kosovo. With much effort, the Macedonian center had been relieved of over-crowding by the transfer of 50 patients elsewhere. Industry had been most supportive of that humanitarian effort.

The Informatics Commission reported that computer donation visits had been paid to Nepal, Nigeria and Cuba. This program, based largely on the personal initiative of K. Solez, was supported mainly by funding external to the ISN. However, it obviously reflected a potentially valuable program that deserved much closer coordination with COMGAN. Every effort should be made to select those centers or countries that were most in need [279].

Thus far, 60 interviews had been completed as part of the Video Legacy Project. Hopefully, a digital video disk could be produced by 2001 with access via the ISN web site. The growing number of ISN products and educational materials created a need for a compilation and dissemination of a complete list of all available items, including their cost, if any [279].

The Council (Fig. 26) met on the same day [281] and selected Singapore as the venue for the Congress in 2005, one to be held in concert with the Asian Pacific Society and including, for the first time, the Singapore Society as the local host. Both the ISN and the Asian Pacific Society would be represented on the Scientific Program Committee. Profit, if any, would be divided in a manner similar to that utilized for the 1997 Sydney Congress.

Following the report of the Nominating Committee, Robert C. Atkins (Australia) was voted President-Elect for 1999–2001 by the Council and J.J. Weening (Netherlands) was elected Vice President. J. Grantham was

asked to join the Management Committee as a replacement for R. Barsoum, the new Secretary-General [281].

The recommended annual dues increase to US \$150 (effective in the year 2000) was affirmed by Council, but not without expressions of concern about the possible impact on younger individuals [281]. To partially offset this substantive increase (of which \$85 would go to the publisher, leaving \$65 as unrestricted dues), the charge for the joint membership program would remain at US \$100 and the two-years-for-price-of-one membership arrangement for trainees would be continued [281].

The Editor reported that all *KI* issues for 1998 and 1999 were on the Internet and that members would have free access to an online version of *KI* for a limited time beginning in the summer of 1999 [282]. The number of manuscript submissions for 1998 rose to 1,139, including, 1,019 unsolicited original manuscripts [282]. In preparation for future entry into electronic publisher, the publisher asked the Executive to consider three important questions (among many others): (a) Does the ISN support publication of *KI* on the web? (b) How should an electronic subscription be priced? (c) Should *KI* appear in both a paper version and an electronic format? Complex issues underlay the search for a best answer to each of these questions.

The question of triennial versus biennial Congresses was raised once more [281]. The biennial calendar, voted in 1993, was authorized originally only through 2001. Clearly, the biennial schedule provided less time for fund-raising and other preparations for the large and expensive meetings that Congresses had become. On the other hand, a two-year schedule permitted more frequent venues in major areas of the world. The concept

of holding a Congress every two years in collaboration with a major regional society was confirmed through the year 2007, thus continuing an arrangement first considered during 1990–93 and implemented fully in 1997. Congressional proponents pointed out that the Forefronts Conferences failed to serve 65% of the world's nephrologists well, but that the Congresses served them from throughout the world (ignoring the fact of reduced North American participation unless invited as speakers, and the more recent publication of all of the Proceedings of Forefronts Conferences as *KI* Supplements).

Highlights of the General Assembly meeting included brief remarks by out-going President Kurokawa and incoming President Andreoli, both of whom declared their commitment to the advance of nephrology in developing countries [283, 284]. The Secretary General noted that there were then 141 Sister links although most of them were not yet active. The ISN web site had just been renewed with the support of the Commission on Computer Information and the National Kidney Foundation (USA). The Treasurer noted that there were more than 8,000 ISN members from 110 countries [285, 286], and that the Society's annual expense had risen to US \$1.8 million. Approved amendments to the Constitution included an increase in the number of Councilors from 21 to 25, inclusion of the Vice President and Past President on the Management Committee, and the approval of balloting via the internet [287]. Newly elected Councilors included A. Al-Khader (Saudi Arabia), K. Chugh (India), W. Couser (USA), G. Garcia (Mexico), N. Lameire (Belgium), A. Meyers (South Africa), M. Riella (Brazil), S. Sakai (Japan), K. Solez (Canada) and N. Tomilina (Russia).

The second meetings of the new Executive and Management Committees and the Council were held on May 6th under the leadership of the new President, Thomas E. Andreoli (USA) [288–291]. Other members of these two Committees included Past President Kurokawa, President-Elect Atkins, Vice President Weening, Secretary-General Barsoum, Editor Klahr, Treasurer Mitch, and Councilors J. Grantham (USA) and M.J. Field (Australia) as members of the Management Committee. Ms. I. Huang, the Society's new Executive Director, was also present.

Discussion of the future of on-line publishing for *KI* continued. Some felt that online publication would have a negative impact on the number of hard copies and that many of the current members were not "computer-minded." The cost of on-line publication was also influenced by the breadth of content and it was agreed that the abstracts of national societies and letters to the Editor would be published on-line only, and not in the hard copy version of *KI*. No more than a limited number of announcements would be included on-line, but inclusion of the future newsletter might be possible. The financial

impact of electronic publishing remained uncertain but the Society continued to move slowly and cautiously in that direction [288].

The Nominating Committee for 2001 would be chaired by W. Suki (USA), and inclusive of M. De Mello-Aires (Latin America), P. Ronco (Europe), S. Sasaki (Asia), and H. Ben Maiz (Africa). It held its first organizational meeting in Buenos Aires.

The status of the conjoint meeting with the American Society in 2001 would represent a large and complex undertaking. The ISN Advisory Committee would include S. Hebert (USA), W.E. Mitch (USA), R.C. Atkins (Australia), G. D'Amico (Italy), K. Kurokawa (Japan), S. Massry (USA), and E. Ritz (Germany). ISN representatives on the Scientific Program Committee would include S. Hebert (USA), S. Sasaki (Japan), and J.-P. Grünfeld (France). In effect, the all-important Program Committee would be Co-Chaired by Qais Al-Awgati (the American Society Program Chair) and S. Hebert, the lead ISN representative on the Committee. Arrangements such as these offered quiet testimony to the fact that two strong societies and good people could combine forces and work together to produce a world-class product. The 2001 Congress would afford an opportunity to produce the largest nephrological meeting ever. Many felt that the American Society already held the world's most important annual scientific meeting and its collaboration with the ISN would, in effect, bring about a "World Congress" of unprecedented appeal. It offered an unparalleled opportunity to effect the added exposure of many hundreds of nephrologists from developing countries to an outstanding week or more of fabulous activities. The Presidents of the two societies, R. Alpern of the American Society and T.E. Andreoli of the ISN, had already met in March 1999 and agreed that a single program and fund-raising committee should be established [289]. The abstract acceptance rate would approach or equal 100%, which meant that the poster sessions would most likely be expanded. Overall, it was predicted that as many as 13–14,000 persons would attend. At this time, it was thought that an Opening Ceremony would be held on a Saturday and that the subsequent Congress would last through the following Wednesday [289]. A Farewell Party would probably not be held. The plenary speakers would be selected by the two Presidents after consultation with the Program Committee [290]. As negotiated in 1993, the ASN would receive the average profit of the ASN annual meetings in 1998, 1999 and 2000, adjusted for inflation. Any overage would be divided equally between the two societies.

A training program would be offered for fellows and young nephrologists from developing countries as had been initiated so successfully in Sydney and Buenos Aires [290].

The increasing involvement of the Council in ISN af-

fairs, coupled with a growing number of complex agenda issues deserving of fuller consideration, led to a decision to extend all future Council meetings from a few hours to a full day.

The COMGAN annual budget now equaled US \$250,000, including \$100,000 for the Sub-Committees and \$50,000 to establish 10 demonstration models of Renal Sister Center relationships [291]. Each relationship would receive US \$5,000, perhaps for each of three years. It is important to recognize that ISN support for programs in developing countries was by no means limited to this single COMGAN allocation. Even greater

amounts had been long provided by ISN allocations for the Fellowship and Visiting Scholar programs, the library enhancement program, a sizeable portion of the support for travel grants to the Congresses, many of the activities of the Commission on Acute Renal Failure, and the President's continuing education fund. All told, based on the proposed budget for 1999 (as opposed to actual expense) [273], as much as 80 to 85% of the Society's discretionary income (defined as total expense minus that for *KI* subscriptions and administrative costs) was now being directed toward the support of programs in emerging countries.

Entry Into the Next Millennium, 1999–2000

President Andreoli lost little time in developing and presenting his plans for the period 1999–2001. He held the third leadership retreat in the Society's history by convening a combined meeting of the Executive and Management Committees in San Francisco on August 5–6, 1999 [292]. At the outset, he emphasized his interest in: (a) increasing the participation of the Management Committee in the conduct of ISN affairs; (b) the financial impact and necessity of electronic publishing by *KI*; (c) greater involvement of developing countries in ISN affairs; (d) reorganization of COMGAN; (e) potential competition from other societies in the area of international education; and (f) enhanced ties between industry and the ISN; and (g) the need to develop guidelines for the ISN awards [278]. A full agenda indeed for the next two years.

It was agreed that the ISN mission is the “*advance of nephrology world-wide.*” To fulfill this mission, “*the ISN will enhance on a global level, knowledge, research, clinical practice and leadership in nephrology, all according to local needs.*” The main tools for achieving these goals would include the “*Fellowship program, KI (including electronic publication), COMGAN (including the Renal Sister Program) and other Commissions, the international Congresses, the Forefronts (Conferences) and dissemination vehicles (world-wide web and newsletter)*” [292].

A great deal of discussion centered about the future of *KI*, which most still believed was the main magnet for the attraction and retention of members (Fig. 27). For years, the Executive had had to resist suggestions to dilute the scientific quality of *KI* by the inclusion of more “practical” clinical education. The issue was again raised at this meeting, and again resisted. It was decided that *KI* should be published electronically and offered initially to ISN members alone at a fee no higher than that for the hard copy. Since S. Klahr was appointed as Editor for a six-year term, R.C. Atkins was asked to chair a Search Committee whose editorial choice would be ratified in 2001.

To disseminate ISN information more effectively, a quarterly newsletter would be published and an edited membership directory would be included on the ISN home page on the Internet. The new newsletter would be edited by A.J. Rees (UK). A clinical section would be included (Editor, J.-P. Grünfeld) to enhance the delivery of practical clinical information for those most in need of such information. An ISN and regional news section would be edited by M.J. Field.

Considerations of ISN re-organization led to a pro-



Fig. 27. The Editors-in-Chief of *Kidney International* 1972–2000. Left to right: T.E. Andreoli (1985–97); R.R. Robinson (1972–85); S. Klahr (1997–). (Courtesy of T.E. Andreoli)

posed merger of the Executive and Management Committees into a single Committee with the addition of the Chair of COMGAN, a decision that would require subsequent Constitutional amendment and approval by the general membership.

The Society's ongoing financial obligations for programs and a concern about possible future income reductions due to the uncertainties of electronic publishing and investment income led to the launch of a new solicitation of corporate support. The Fellowship and COMGAN programs would be used as the main justification for such solicitations.

The Society was then in the midst of separating the duties of the permanent secretariat in Amsterdam and the Office of the Secretary-General, wherever he or she might be located. Already, the Secretary-General and the Secretariat found themselves communicating several times each day. Even the now-traditional yearly meetings of the Executive and Council had become insufficient for the in-depth discussion and study necessary to informed decisions. The Secretary-General was asked to explore the feasibility of a video-conferencing system.

For many, many years, the Executive had been distressed by the cumbersome processes for voting by the general membership, although each Congress had witnessed gradual improvement in the electoral process. Further discomfort was provided by the relatively low turnout of voters, a fact that was still evident in Buenos Aires despite improvement by the use of a mail ballot published in *KI* in advance of the Congress. Conse-

quently, for 2001 [292], the election would occur via either of three methodologies: a postal ballot, an Internet ballot, or by vote during the Congress. This tripartite approach required the development of a final list of candidates approximately one year in advance of the actual election. Hopefully, this cumbersome chapter in the Society's history would be brought to a final close.

Much discussion surrounded the utility of one year or longer versus shorter Fellowships. In recent years, training opportunities of less than one year's duration had been awarded with increased frequency. It was felt that certain specific needs, in fact, could be addressed during shorter periods of training so, officially, approximately 50% of allocated monies were utilized for one year Fellowships (such trainees would be designated as "ISN Fellows" on completion of their training); the other 50% would be used to support a larger number of candidates for shorter periods (or for the extension of a training period beyond one year) and that such individuals would be called "ISN Trainees." Travel grants for young nephrologists to attend the biennial Congresses would be increased from 120 to 150 [292].

Soon, COMGAN would have one Chair instead of two, and that person would be included on the Executive Committee. Eventually, COMGAN would also have two Vice-Chairs, one of whom would direct the Renal Sisters Program [292]. One of the current COMGAN Co-Chairs would be asked to join the Executive Committee without vote. COMGAN also hoped to create a new Sub-Committee for China to be headed by W. Couser (Seattle, USA).

This Retreat, as was true of earlier efforts, was most valuable and productive. It permitted the address and satisfactory resolution of a number of knotty issues. Unaddressed, however, and left for a future retreat, was the lingering question of the nature, content, format, and frequency of the Congresses [292]. Never a primary or preferred venue for the first presentation of original research by investigators from the developed world, it had become even less so by 1999. A number of major questions were again deserving of discussion, obviously reflecting a feeling of continuing discomfort with the current status of the Congresses. Several possible remedies could be envisioned, ranging from an annual meeting with a less expansive and expensive social program; to a return to triennial meetings; to a reconsideration of conjoint partnerships; to a Congress dedicated unabashedly to service to the developing world; to the development of multiple or even parallel regional mini-meetings with differing types of content on a biennial, or triennial basis; to the development of new and different formats for the current approach (whose content could be characterized increasingly as continuing education). The latter need was emphasized by diminished reliance on the thematic concept (which was an attractive but experimental

concept that had been unable to withstand the pressure to "include a little bit of everything" on the agenda of each Congress). A consideration of the nature of future congresses was once again a priority. And, last, it would be most appropriate to examine the appropriate balance between programs in support of "*knowledge, research, clinical practice and leadership*" [292] in service to the Society's broadly stated mission to advance nephrology worldwide. One of many possible questions might ask: Does the Society wish to emphasize most the transmission of practical knowledge to emerging nations, or maintain an equal emphasis on programs of benefit to all possible constituencies (research-based, clinical, etc., in developed and developing countries)? These and various derivatives of such questions were not addressed at the San Francisco Retreat.

The Executive Committee (now including the unofficial inclusion of the Management Committee and one of the Co-Chairs of COMGAN) held its first meeting under T.E. Andreoli's Presidency on November 8th in Miami Beach, Florida [293].

In view of growing ISN representation from China and India, it was voted to recommend an increase in the Council membership by two (from 25 to 27) and fill the new positions by representatives from these two countries.

The expansion of COMGAN activities had led to a necessary reorganization of its leadership, in part occasioned by the retirement of Co-Chair B.M. Brenner who had led its development so very ably for the preceding six years. J. Dirks (Canada) would serve as Chair until 2003 while E. Ritz (Germany) would serve as Vice Chair [293]. Pending further reorganization, the Africa Sub-Committee was chaired by J.-P. Grünfeld, the Asian Sub-Committee by V. Sitprija, the CIS and Middle East Sub-Committee by J. Dirks, the Central Eastern Europe Sub-Committee by E. Ritz, and the Latin America Sub-Committee by J. Herrera-Acosta.

Most importantly, at this meeting, a list of possible constitutional changes was developed, which, if enacted, would reflect the most substantive changes since 1978. These included the addition of the "*mission, vision, and means*" as defined in San Francisco, changing the name ISN "Fellow" to "member" so as not to be confused with Fellows in training, definition of the types and qualifications of membership, inclusion of the ISN newsletter as an official publication (*ISN News*), reorganization of the Executive, definition of the Editorial term of office, and automatic ascent of the Vice President to the Presidency [278, 293]. Fine tuning, if you will, but necessary.

The preliminary expense budget for 2000 amounted to US \$2.138 million, including \$622,500 for the Fellowship program, \$102,000 for Forefronts, \$5,000 for library enhancement, \$250,000 for COMGAN, \$45,000 for three Commission, \$30,000 for the President's CME Fund, and

\$453,000 for administration (Treasurer's Office, Secretariat, taxes, etc.; all US dollars) [273].

The full Council met on November 9th [278], at which time K. Solez highlighted the activities of the Commission on Computer Information and outlined its close interaction with the Commission on Acute Renal Failure and COMGAN (with specific emphasis on the Renal Sister Program). The Commission continued to assume major responsibility for maintenance of the Society's increasingly informative homepage on the web.

N. Lameire, reporting on the activities of the Commission on Acute Renal Failure, emphasized the distinct advantage of operating under an international banner such as that provided by the ISN, as opposed to a national banner. Access to a crisis-plagued developing or emerging country was facilitated thereby enormously. Commenting on the Turkish earthquake, he noted that the Belgian team had arrived within 24 hours, followed by a Swedish, a German and a team of mixed national origin from Europe. Approximately 420 patients were dialyzed. Similar efforts are needed elsewhere in the world [278].

The Video Legacy Program, supported principally from outside sources, continued to conduct video interviews with senior nephrologists from a growing list provided by the Executive Committee. This is one of the largest accomplishments of the Commission on the History of Nephrology, and one to be commended highly. Two CD-ROMS now display some of the highlights of the first interviews. Copies of the original tapes are also available at the ISN Archives in Amsterdam or the Cyber-nephrology complex in Edmonton, Canada. The Commission, through the offices of its previous Chair, C.W. Gottschalk, had also acquired a sizeable reservoir of printed materials from previous ISN leaders. These were collected into an archive to be known as the Gottschalk Archives and located near the new Secretariat's office in Amsterdam. The material was to be catalogued and made available eventually via the ISN web site (<http://www.isn-online.org>) [278]. Even more recently, the Commission has offered a small amount of money (US \$500) in support of History Scholarships. It is hoped that the scholarships will stimulate new interest in nephrological history on the part of young applicants whose proposals are deemed worthy of support.

The Council was pleased to learn that the Singapore Society would combine with the Asian Pacific Society to hold the ISN Congress in Singapore in 2005, thus assuring that the concept of joint ISN partnership with major regional societies would be continued.

COMGAN reported that the regional subcommittees were effective and working well. Site visits, meetings, or workshops were held in 17 locations around the world during 1999. Plans were underway in 2000 to share in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Turkish Society. A need was cited for the provision of more clinical infor-

mation in summary printed form in some developing countries. Greater attention should be paid to the leadership and financial needs of the Sister relationships, only 20–25 of which were thought to be working well. This program would be expanded to include the Model Sister Center Program. Ten applicants would be selected to receive modest but regular ISN funding for perhaps three years to enhance clinical and teaching programs, exchange faculty and students, conduct research, and establish a focal point of excellence within a developing region.

The unique medical and research needs of indigenous native populations in some developing countries offered a great opportunity for future consensus conferences [278]. Overall, since the Buenos Aires Congress, COMGAN continuing education courses were held in Bangladesh, Cuba, India, Pakistan, China, Tunisia, Nicaragua, Philippines, Cote D'Ivoire, and Egypt, to cite but a few [248]. ISN programs ranged from a major ISN-sponsored course with a number of ISN speakers, to support of a national or local meeting with several or few ISN speakers. The cost of travel expense was usually covered by the ISN or other sources but no honorarium was provided. Even though a small number of ISN speakers had been called upon most frequently, it was nevertheless impressive that more than 100 ISN members had given freely of their time thus far.

Even more recently, COMGAN has established a Research Subcommittee, cochaired by G. Remuzzi (Italy), to provide opportunities for research in developing countries that is relevant to local needs. It is hoped that population-oriented preventive measures can be designed that will eventually limit the need for dialysis or transplantation.

All told, this Council concluded its meeting by affirming, after sometimes spirited discussion, the range of recommendations developed by the Executive at its San Francisco Retreat during the preceding August. Many were summarized in the first edition of the *ISN News*, Spring/Summer Issue, 2000, under the editorial leadership of A.J. Rees (UK) [294, 295]. Among these changes were those relevant to the ISN Fellowship Program which continued to receive generous financial support from the Society plus additional monies from sister nephrology societies and industry. The entire program would continue to be overseen by the Secretary General and an international selection committee of seven senior nephrologists. The selection process would continue to require verification of data followed by evaluation and selection. The title "ISN Fellow" would apply to those who completed one or more years of training, and "ISN Scholar" (instead of "Trainee") for those who completed a shorter period of training.

Last, and perhaps of greater potential impact on future ISN programs, was the decision to take yet another step toward the inclusion of a greater number of representa-



Fig. 28. ISN Executive Committee in Amsterdam, January 2000. Left to right: J. Dirks, S. Klahr, W.E. Mitch, J. Weening, R. Barsoum, T.E. Andreoli, R.C. Atkins, M.J. Fields, H. Mürer, and J. Grantham. (Courtesy of the ISN Secretariat)

tives from the two-thirds of the world's population that was under-represented in the governance of the Society. . . . especially inclusive of China, India, South America and Central and Eastern Europe. It was a commendable and felicitous attempt to enhance the internationality of the Society even further. An attractive signal to be sent in advance of the Society's entrance into the year 2000 and the next millenium.

2000

The establishment of a permanent ISN Secretariat in Amsterdam, with Ms. Ilja Huang as the first Executive Director, was a watershed event in the history of the Society. The probable need for such an office had been recognized increasingly for several years and it was now a fact. It was fitting that the Society's Archives should be transferred from London to Amsterdam where its maintenance in accessible form could be added to the other duties of the Secretariat. The Archives were dedicated officially in January, 2000, a most appropriate way to mark the Society's entry into the new millenium. In attendance were President Andreoli, President-Elect Atkins, Vice President Weening, Secretary-General Barsoum, Treasurer Mitch, Editor Klahr, Councilors Grantham and Field as members of the Management Committee, J. Dirks as Chair of COMGAN, Ms. Huang, and a number of Dutch officials and guests.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee (Fig. 28) in the new millenium was held on January 21–22, 2000 in Amsterdam's Radisson SAS Hotel [296]. Drs. Dirks, Grantham and Field were present, but without vote. The first principal topic for discussion concerned yet another revision to the Constitution and By-Laws.

In one sense, they had been under constant review and modification since their inception as the needs and programs of the Society changed over time. Further, many defined or implied processes in earlier versions were reflective of a desire to create a very different society than the one now existent, one with expanded goals and different criteria for membership. From the beginning, the Constitution was a creature of compromise and many of its processes proved to be clumsy or even unworkable. Gradually, over 40 years, each of several revisions had led to increasingly relevant and practical language that was much more in keeping with the manner in which the Society actually functioned.

Currently, insofar as constitutional changes were concerned, the dissolution of the Management Committee and inclusion of its two Councilor members and the Chair of COMGAN as members of the Executive Committee was affirmed. The Council would be expanded to 27 persons (including the Executive Committee) and, as customary, the Nominating Committee would be charged with careful attention to the maintenance of global representation. Other proposed changes included improved definition of the duration of service of elected officers, classes of membership, and corporate sponsorship, as well as allowance for additional types of publications and the use of electronic communication in the conductance of society affairs. The recommended changes would be presented to the Council at its next meeting and, if approved, would presumably be presented to the general membership at the 2001 Congress in San Francisco.

The second main item for consideration at this meeting surrounded the current status of *KI* and its future. Much of the discussion was occasioned by a contractual re-

quirement to renegotiate the Society's relationship with the journal's publisher, Blackwell Science. Thus far, this relationship had been exceedingly harmonious and mutually beneficial to both parties. Nevertheless, the future was clouded by the uncertain financial impact of electronic publishing, the entry of other forms of competitive publishing, and the steady demand of the Society's growing commitments for financial support, much of which derived from the journal's profit.

Kidney International had long served as a cornerstone program of the Society. Highly respected in the field, many felt that it remained the main and principal attraction for membership in the Society, especially in the developed world. Further, the journal had continued to grow and prosper under S. Klahr's editorial leadership. During the second calendar year of his editorship (1998), the submission of original full-length manuscripts rose to 1,020. For the 12-month period September 1, 1998 through August 31, 1999, 1,179 new manuscripts were received, 1,015 of which were original and unsolicited full-length manuscripts. Overall, 34% of these submissions derived from North America, 41% from Europe and 20% from Asia, numbers that again reflected the balanced internationality of the journal's content. Japan alone accounted for 13% of the journal's submissions. The acceptance rate remained steady, ranging between 35 and 40%. For the period July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, 1011 original manuscripts were submitted, 57% of which dealt with basic research and 43% with clinical research. Again, 36.5% derived from North America, 38.5% from Europe, and 19.2% from Asia. The interval between acceptance and publication was approximately four months [297]. Long a subject of debate, many of the Forefronts Conferences were now published as Supplements to the journal. The number of published pages had increased from 4,010 in 1997 to approximately 5,302 in calendar year 1999, a one-third increase. This growth was complemented similarly by a measurable increase in the number of published Supplements (4 in 1997, 5 in 1998 and 5 in 1999).

The advent of the Joint Membership program in 1996 meant that ISN membership could no longer be equated with the number of member subscribers to the journal. For the three-year period 1993–95, the total membership ranged between 6,444 and 6,679 (average 6,550). For 1996 through 1999, it ranged between 7,815 and 8,738 (average 8,240), thereby reflecting the impact of the Joint Membership program on membership alone [273]. On the other hand, paid member subscriptions may have drifted downward slightly during the same period (from 7,298 in 1997 to 6,754 in 1998 to 6,932 in 1999), possibly reflecting the inadvertent conversion of a certain number of individual memberships to the Joint Membership program. Total paid circulation for the same period was 9,465 in 1997, 8,907 in 1998, and 8,996 in 1999 [298]. Some

might argue that the erosion, if any, in paid individual memberships was more than offset by the substantive increase in membership from emerging nations as occasioned by the joint program.

Against the background of the journal's success, considerable attention was directed to its future. Its mission was reviewed and substantive questions were raised as to possible modifications of content. All were agreed that the Society would benefit most of it remained a high quality medical and scientific product. The potential financial impact of a number of possible changes were considered, such as increasing both the number of pages and subscription fee or reducing the number of pages and keeping the fee constant. All such considerations were modulated by the uncertain impact of electronic publishing. They were given added credence by a recent reduction in the Society's share of profit from *KI*. Hopefully, these and other concerns would be addressed as a new contract with the publisher was negotiated.

The Society had long operated under an informal understanding that its Presidency would alternate between the Americas and Europe (a minority had thought that it was between Europe and "the rest of the world"). That tradition was interrupted appropriately by the election of Kiyoshi Kurokawa as President for the 1997–99 term. There now arose another consideration: should the Society's commitment to developing countries open the Presidency to a candidate therefrom? All agreed that there was no reason for the denial of senior office to a qualified candidate from any region, developed or otherwise. Timing and circumstances would undoubtedly one day lead to an ISN President from a developing or emerging country.

COMGAN programs continued to strengthen. Requests for assistance were growing. J. Dirks hoped to hold an Israeli/Palestinian/Jordanian-sponsored meeting in the Middle East. The "Model Renal Sisters" initiative (two model linkages in each of the five COMGAN regions) under the leadership of E. Ritz was under development. "Consensus" conferences were planned in several regions and the Asian region was to be subdivided into either two or three parts. All of these activities increased the need for additional funding, especially in the area of continuing education. Toward that end, corporate solicitation was again envisioned [299].

The 2000 budget was approved. The inactivity of the Clinical Trials Commission meant that its budget should be reallocated for other purposes. Other more routine matters included review of the pilot edition of the new *ISN News* publication, and a decision to produce a traditional printed copy of an updated ISN Directory plus a new online version. The Society's entry into the year 2000 was now complete. May the next 40 years be as fruitful as the past.

SOME FINAL COMMENTS

The International Society of Nephrology is a very different organization today than that envisioned by its founder in 1960. Its declared mission, as outlined in the preface to each revision of its Constitution, or debated during the Society's two leadership retreats, has changed very little. Each version is remarkably similar. They speak of missions to "*advance the knowledge of nephrology, and to foster the dissemination of this knowledge through International Congresses of Nephrology and by other means*" (1964); "*to promote and foster the exchange and diffusion of concepts and information relating to nephrology throughout the world . . . to advance knowledge in scientific disciplines. . . . to hold international Congresses. . . . to provide a suitable forum for the discussion of nephrological problems on an international scale. . . . to promote, to sponsor, and to financially support a journal, proceedings of meetings, or other appropriate publications*" (1978); "*to promote education, research, and patient care world-wide*" (1992); and "*to advance nephrology worldwide*" (1999). The Society has remained loyal to these missions throughout its history although the relative balance between programs devoted directly to the dissemination of knowledge via research versus those defined broadly as continuing education has changed substantially. However, even though the Society's programmatic thrust has broadened, its commitment to internationality has never slackened. The commitment is stronger today than ever before.

Initially, the Society's Congresses and its journal were viewed primarily as international vehicles for the presentation of original basic and clinical research relevant to nephrology. Over time, the principal emphasis of the Society's journal has changed very little, if at all, but continuing education has become an increasingly visible component of the now biennial Congresses. The commitment to education (and, parenthetically, internationality as well) was broadened further by the advent of several programs of relevance to the advance of nephrology in developing countries. Many of these programs can be categorized properly as forms of education. The increasing emphasis on education (or the dissemination of known knowledge) should not be interpreted as inauspicious; it simply reflects the evolutionary confluence of environmental circumstances within and without the Society's control, and changing perceptions of programmatic priorities by Society leadership.

It is of passing interest to speculate on what the Society might have been today had Jean Hamburger been successful in the creation of a Society of the type envisioned by him originally. He sought the establishment of a much smaller and relatively elitist scientific organization whose principal function would be regular meetings devoted mainly to presentations and discussion of original re-

search. Participants would be internationally based and comprised of a broad array of established investigators from all of the basic and clinical sciences of importance to nephrology. Membership in the Society itself would be by invitation only and based on a review of professional or academic qualifications. Such was the nature, more or less, of the invitational Evian/Geneva Congress in 1960. One can imagine that such an organization, still unique in nephrology today, might well have prospered. Recognition and acceptance by one's academic peers, coupled with a sense of exclusivity and preferred access to meetings of high scientific quality, are compelling forces within the academic community.

Early on, it became increasingly clear that eligibility for membership would be much more "open" than proposed by Hamburger, even though the issue would not be resolved finally for a decade or more. In part, this was due inadvertently to the manner in which subsequent Congresses were funded and promoted and, later, to the coupling of membership dues with subscription to the Society's journal (the financial integrity of the journal was a function of sales and increased sales translated into increased membership). Of course, less restrictive criteria for membership were facilitated as well by the fact that several among the early leadership group believed that such should be the case.

Gradual movement toward open membership and a growing emphasis on continuing education began almost immediately after the first Congress, subtly at first and then more obviously. Instead of following the Evian pattern, the style and format of subsequent Congresses soon began to change. The infrequency of triennial meetings posed a substantive barrier to the timely presentation of much original research, an adverse circumstance that was reinforced further by new or continuing commitments to presentations at the annual meetings of prestigious national societies at home, a situation that was especially true in North America. Further, the understandable desire of local organizing committees to display their cities, countryside, and culture to the best advantage led to increasingly expensive social programs and entertainment which led, in turn, to added cost. Other contributors to added expense were operative as well, but its coverage at successive Congresses was made possible only by the imposition of hefty registration fees, which then required promotional efforts to attract as many paid registrants as possible. The latter approach began as early as the second Congress in Prague in 1963. The explosive application of dialysis and transplantation in developed countries led to dramatic growth in the number of clinical nephrologists who provided a ready reservoir of potential paid registrants who could assist in covering the cost of each Congress. An emerging and growing cadre of clinicians as registrants, coupled with a growing commitment to the advance of nephrology in developing coun-

tries (now referred to euphemistically as the “global” advance of nephrology), led naturally to programs with an ever-increasing emphasis on continuing education, broadly defined. This approach to content was actually first set in motion during the third Congress in Washington, D.C., where current “updates” via symposia and “state-of-the-art” lectures were very much in evidence. Such “updates,” whether via a symposium, a workshop, or a lecture, began to rely heavily on presentations by invited experts who came increasingly to expect partial or even full reimbursement for their expenses, even though members of the ISN (still another source of added cost). The provision of large program segments on “current thinking” by invited academic experts, most often from within nephrology itself, was exceedingly common long before the first formal announcement of a structured “course” in continuing education at the 1995 Congress in Madrid.

Again, none of this is to say that the changing content of the Society’s Congresses is inauspicious as that it fails to meet the needs of most registrants. Irrespective of their growing emphasis on continuing education, the programs of all ISN Congresses have been high in quality consistently and well worth the time and attention of those who attend. Nor have they been lacking in science or original discovery; they simply differ in content from the principal commitment to a research-based agenda as envisioned originally by Hamburger. In fact, a strong case can be made that their current content is particularly well suited to the needs of the practicing clinician (academic or otherwise), and that it is especially beneficial to registrants from developing countries.

Hamburger not only sought international representation at each Congress (an objective that has been achieved magnificently), but he was also desirous of representation by investigators based in all scientific disciplines relevant to nephrology. In that respect, with the exception of pathology and physiology, both the Congresses and the Society’s journal have been less successful. They have demonstrated their ability to attract physiologically and morphologically based research carried out by non-nephrologists, and the Congresses have always attracted a small and loyal core of pathologists and physiologists with interest in the kidney. But they have generally failed to attract regular representation from researchers outside nephrology in fields such as basic immunology, genetics, and cell biology. Even the highly relevant field of transplantation has often been under-represented. Such a circumstance is not unique to the ISN, but one that is readily apparent in almost all nephrological meetings and journals, including those that are most research-based.

Whatever their strengths or weaknesses, the Congresses remain a principal and highly visible function of today’s ISN. We believe, nevertheless, that their long-

term future is clouded and that they are deserving of re-evaluation. What is their intended purpose and is it being served? Should their content and format be altered and if so, how? Would Society effort and resources be best directed elsewhere? A review of these and other questions is indicated, in part, by falling rates of abstract submission and attendance by North Americans coupled with the long-recognized fact that many members have never attended a single Congress. The last evaluation was carried out during 1990–92 in response to growing concern about the plethora of competitive national, regional, and international meetings. That review led to the adoption of a thematic concept at the Jerusalem Congress (utilized by name at each subsequent Congress but increasingly deviant from the original concept), conjoint meetings with regularly scheduled meetings of large regional societies beginning in 1997 and extending through 2005, and movement to a biennial calendar. Any new and fresh evaluation must acknowledge the apparent strengths of the Congresses, namely, the value of continuing education in a Congress format, the opportunity for networking and travel, their popularity with participants from less advantaged countries and contribution to the COMGAN mission, and the potentially positive regional impact of conjoint meetings. Nevertheless, one can imagine a panoply of attractive but differing types of alternative meetings that might be either research-based or complementary to the Society’s interest in the global advance of nephrology.

It is the Society’s other programs that have prospered most in our view. In the opinion of many, especially among the membership in developed countries, the Society’s crown jewel is *Kidney International*. It remains a major magnet for the attraction and retention of members, and that would seem to be true especially for those member-subscribers who have never attended a Congress or participated in any of the Society’s other programs. It is a premier journal and one in which the Society can take justifiable pride. Major changes in its content or direction should be avoided.

Congresses and the journal constituted the principal ISN programs for two decades. It was mainly the financial return from early *KI* operations (first realized in 1975) that brought financial stability to the Society and opportunity for the development of new programs. Since 1972 the Society’s dues have equaled the sum of two components: subscription to *KI* at a reduced rate and another amount for dues. The relationship between subscription rate and the amount for dues approximated no more than 80:20 for several years. More recently, the dues component has been increased steadily to approximately 40% of the total, thus providing a substantive and predictable source of unrestricted money for support of the Society’s many programs. Journal profit plus unencumbered dues, a small share of Congress profit (if any),

and variously successful efforts at corporate fund-raising continue to provide the main sources of financial support.

By the early 1980s, the Society's financial reserves were sufficient to enable a consideration of possible new programs. The task was approached with commendable thought and care; suggestions were solicited from several sources, including the national societies. Long lists of possible programs were developed and debated, sometimes warmly.

In the end, it is worthy of note that the first new program was the Presidential selection and sponsorship of continuing education programs in two developing countries: Tunisia in 1982 and Peru in 1983. Successive Presidents have continued this tradition and such courses have now been offered in all of the major regions of the developing world. Viewed from that perspective, the ISN has demonstrated a commitment to nephrology in less advantaged nations for almost 20 years. It is a commitment that is unique among international medical societies.

Others have described the Society's growing interest in the developing world as three-phased [292]. We view it as more smoothly evolutionary at a steadily (or even exponentially) accelerating rate. Whatever the rate of change, it has been substantive and clearly reflective of the Society's major current interest. Today as much as 85% of the Society's discretionary expense (defined as total expense less that for administration and journal subscription) is directed toward the support of programs beneficial to nephrology in the world's less advantaged regions. The long-standing Fellowship program still represents the bedrock centerpiece of this effort. Its effectiveness, as always, is a function of the criteria and care with which applicants are evaluated and chosen, the fit between their training experience and need and opportunity at home, the absolute necessity to return home, and the suitability of opportunity in that environment upon their return. The Society's record is good but not exemplary on these counts.

The new Renal Sister Program offers great theoretical promise, but the success of this young program is heavily dependent upon the availability of local financial resources and the motivation and sustained enthusiasm of local leadership in the Sister Centers of developed countries. There are fine examples of sustained commitment already extant on the part of selected centers, but the breadth of such commitment across a community of developed centers has yet to be established. It is a program that will require dedicated central coordination alongside available financial support for certain key initiatives. But, most importantly of all, it will require sustained enthusiastic, and committed leadership by a person or persons in a developed center over time, coupled with interest and receptivity on the part of the link in a developing country.

The Fellowship and Renal Sister programs afford the

greatest opportunity for long-term and lasting impact on nephrology in developing regions. A more supportive role is played by such programs as the library enhancement program, travel grants to attend the Congresses, or the conjoint membership program. Periodic symposia, continuing education courses, lectures or visits by ISN members or other dignitaries are also supportive. They are demonstrative of ISN interest and good will and can provide useful opportunities for the assessment of local need. Their impact, nevertheless, is much more ephemeral unless sustained regularly and repetitively over a period of time. Further, no program can be successful in the absence of interest, opportunity, desire and leadership in the emerging country. We are impressed most when primary responsibility for continuing education is assumed by the relevant national society, and the ISN is asked to play a secondary role through the provision of one or more speakers and relevant educational materials.

The Society's recognition and acknowledgment that three-quarters of the world's population does not benefit from all of the rewards of modern medicine is highly commendable. The global advance of nephrology, mainly through education and training, was not on the agenda of the founders of the ISN. It marks a major change in the Society's direction. Nevertheless, the Society's resources are limited and the global advance of nephrological practice will be slow. Ultimate and lasting success will depend upon the Society's ability to leverage its human and limited financial resources while sustaining the enthusiasm of many. Even so, it will be years before lasting success of the several ISN programs can be truly evaluated. Progress will be measured in small steps and the need is so great that the Society must be ever cautious that it does not attempt too much, or that it continues to spread its resources too diffusely. For our part, we remain committed to the view that both the developed and developing worlds will benefit most by the maintenance of a strong Society focus on programs that prepare nephrology and nephrologists for the future, rather than for the present.

Beyond COMGAN and the numerous programs devoted to nephrology in less advantaged countries, *Kidney International* and the equally successful Forefronts Conferences are the two ISN programs that perhaps benefit the academic membership of developed countries most directly, although benefit also accrues to others as well. We can only applaud the noble mission of COMGAN and we are pleased by some of the meetings that have been held under its banner. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that the principal base of full dues-paying members is still resident in the developed countries of the world, and that the majority hold some sort of full-time appointment in a hospital or medical school. The ISN commitment to the nephrological communities of developing nations must not come at the expense of

programs beneficial to this equally important constituency. It will behoove the Society's future leadership to maintain a very real sense of balance between programs of value to these two global constituencies. Both should and must be accommodated and there is some concern that the increasing dominance of programs in support of nephrology in developing countries may be less beneficial to the average membership in developed countries than it is popular with ISN leadership. Clearly, today's ISN is very different than that envisioned originally by its founder. Even the most recent mission statement fails to define the actual behavior of the Society except in most general terms. Recent programmatic direction suggests that it will one day differ even more than is the case today.

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 265. Minutes of the ISN General Assembly, May 27, 1997, Sydney Convention Center Australia. *Kidney Int* 52:866, 1997
 266. Minutes of First Council meeting, May 25, Sydney Convention Center, Sydney (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1997
 267. Minutes of the Second Executive/Management Committee meeting, May 29, Sydney Convention Center, Sydney. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1997
 268. Minutes of Second Council meeting, May 30, Sydney Convention Center, Sydney. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1997
 269. KUROKAWA K: Report of the President-Elect. *Kidney Int* 51:2040–2041, 1997
 270. Minutes of Executive Committee meeting, November 1, San Antonio, Texas. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1997
 271. Minutes of Management Committee meeting November 1, San Antonio, Texas. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1997
 272. Minutes of Council Meeting, November 5, San Antonio, Texas. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1997
 273. MURRAY M: Memorandum to R.R. Robinson dated June 19. Personal files of R. R. Robinson, 2000
 274. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, October 24, Philadelphia. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1998
 275. Minutes of the Council, October 28, Philadelphia. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1998
 276. Minutes of Management Committee meeting, October 24, Philadelphia. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1998
 277. Final Program. XVth International Congress of Nephrology, May 2–6, Buenos Aires, Argentina. (Courtesy of R.W. Schrier), 1999
 278. Minutes of the ISN Council meeting, November 9, Miami Beach, Florida. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 279. Minutes of the First Executive Committee meeting, May 2, Buenos Aires. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 280. Secretary-General's Report, ICN Buenos Aires, May. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 281. Minutes of the First ISN Council meeting, May 2, Buenos Aires. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 282. Minutes of the First ISN Management Committee meeting, May 2, Buenos Aires. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 283. KUROKAWA K: Report from the President. *Kidney Int* 56:1997, 1999
 284. ANDREOLI TE: Report from the President Elect. *Kidney Int* 56:1997–1998, 1999
 285. WEENING JJ: Report from the Secretary General. *Kidney Int* 56:1998, 1999
 286. MITCH WE: Report from the Treasurer. *Kidney Int* 56:1998–2000, 1999
 287. Minutes of the General Assembly, Parts I and II, Buenos Aires, May 5–6. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 288. Minutes of the Second Management Committee meeting, May 6, Buenos Aires. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 289. Minutes of the Second Executive Committee meeting, May 6, Buenos Aires. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 290. Minutes of the Second ISN Council meeting, May 6, Buenos Aires. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 291. Minutes of the Second (extended) Council meeting, May 6, Buenos Aires. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 292. Minutes of the San Francisco Retreat August 5–6, San Francisco, California. (Courtesy of the ISN Secretariat), 1999
 293. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, November 8, Miami Beach, Florida. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 294. ISN News. Spring/Summer Issue 2000, edited by REES AJ. (<http://www.isn-online.org>)
 295. Minutes of the Fellowship Committee meeting, November 7, Miami Beach, Florida. (Courtesy of ISN Secretariat), 1999
 296. Minutes of the Amsterdam Retreat, January 21–22, Amsterdam. (Courtesy of Secretary General Barsoum), 2000
 297. Editor's Report, *Kidney International*, July 1, 1999–June 30, 2000. (Courtesy of S. Klahr), 2000
 298. KROSCHELL J: Fax letter to R.R. Robinson dated October 4. Personal files of R.R. Robinson, 2000
 299. ANDREOLI TE: Letter to R.R. Robinson dated January 13, and attached copy of solicitation letter to industry with its attachments. (Courtesy of T.E. Andreoli), 2000

APPENDIX

Tables 1–8, Figures 1–6, and the photographs of past and current ISN Presidents are included to provide additional specific information on ISN Congresses, programs, and membership.

Table 1. ISN Officers, 1960–2000

Term	President	Secretary-General	Treasurer	Editor
1960–63	J. Hamburger (FR)	J.-L. Funck-Brentano (FR)	L. Migone (IT)	
1963–66	C. Brun (DEN)	J.-L. Funck-Brentano	L. Migone	G. Richet/G. Schreiner (FR/USA)
1966–69	J.P. Merrill (USA)	J.-L. Funck-Brentano	L. Migone	G. Richet/G. Schreiner
1969–72	H.E. de Wardener (UK)	H. Villarreal (MEX)	N.S. Bricker (USA)	G. Richet/G. Schreiner
1972–75	P. Kincaid-Smith (AUST)	H. Villarreal	N.S. Bricker	R.R. Robinson (USA)
1975–78	N. Alwall (SW)	J. Moorhead (UK)	N.S. Bricker	R.R. Robinson
1978–81	G.E. Schreiner (USA)	J. Moorhead	N.S. Bricker	R.R. Robinson
1981–84	G. Richet (FR)	J. Moorhead	R.W. Schrier (USA)	R.R. Robinson
1984–87	D.W. Seldin (USA)	C. Amiel (FR)	R.W. Schrier	R.R. Robinson/T.E. Andreoli (USA)
1987–90	K. Thurau (GER)	C. Amiel	R.W. Schrier	T.E. Andreoli
1990–93	R.R. Robinson (USA)	C. Amiel	C.C. Tisher (USA)	T.E. Andreoli
1993–95	J.S. Cameron (UK)	J. Weening (NETH)	C.C. Tisher	T.E. Andreoli
1995–97	R.W. Schrier (USA)	J. Weening	C.C. Tisher	T.E. Andreoli
1997–99	K. Kurokawa (JPN)	J. Weening	W.E. Mitch (USA)	S. Klahr (USA)
1999–2000	T.E. Andreoli (USA)	R. Barsoum (EGYP)	W.E. Mitch	S. Klahr

Table 2. ISN Congresses

Site	Year	ISN President	Congress President	Congress Secretary-General
I. Geneva/Evian	1960	—	J. Hamburger	J. Cottet/G. Richet
II. Prague	1963	J. Hamburger	J. Brod	J. Jirka
III. Washington, D.C.	1966	C. Brun	R.W. Berliner	G.E. Schreiner
IV. Stockholm	1969	J.P. Merrill	N. Alwall	B. Josephson
V. Mexico, D.F.	1972	H.E. de Wardener	H. Villarreal	E. Exaire
VI. Florence	1975	P. Kincaid-Smith	E. Fiaschi	V. Bonomini
VII. Montreal	1978	N. Alwall	G. Lemieux	M. Bergeron
VIII. Athens	1981	G.E. Schreiner	P. Metaxas	G. Papadimitriou
IX. Los Angeles	1984	G. Richet	N.S. Bricker	R.J. Glasscock
X. London	1987	D.W. Seldin	J.S. Cameron	F.J. Goodwin
XI. Tokyo	1990	K. Thurau	K. Oshima/M. Hatano	S. Takahashi
XII. Jerusalem	1993	R.R. Robinson	J.B. Rosenfeld	G. Boner
XIII. Madrid	1995	J.S. Cameron	L. Hernando	J. Botella
XIV. Sydney	1997	R.W. Schrier	R.C. Atkins	J.A. Charlesworth
XV. Buenos Aires	1999	K. Kurokawa	E.E. Arrizurieta	R.S. Martin

Table 3. ISN Honorary Awards

Year	Congress site	ISN President	J. Hamburger Award	A.N. Richards Award
1987	London	D.W. Seldin	W.J. Kolff and B.H. Scribner	R.W. Berliner
1990	Tokyo	K. Thurau	F.J. Dixon	C.W. Gottschalk, K.J. Ullrich and H. Wirz
1993	Jerusalem	R.R. Robinson	G. Richet and H.E. de Wardener	G. Giebisch
1995	Madrid	J.S. Cameron	D.W. Seldin	M. Burg and F. Morel
1997	Sydney	R.W. Schrier	R. Habib and P. Kincaid-Smith	A. Leaf and K. Thurau
1999	Buenos Aires	K. Kurokawa	B.M. Brenner and R.H. Heptinstall	I. Edelman and H. Ussing

Table 4. Attendance at ISN Congresses^a

Year	Place	Attendance by professionals	Total attendance
1960	Geneva/Evian	≈400	—
1963	Prague	899	—
1966	Washington, D.C.	2,134	2,712
1969	Stockholm	≈1,900	—
1972	Mexico, D.F.	—	2,650
1975	Florence	1,853	2,753
1978	Montreal ^b	—	≈3,000
1981	Athens	2,652	3,081
1984	Los Angeles	2,529	2,771
1987	London	2,715	3,153
1990	Tokyo	3,207	3,559
1993	Jerusalem	2,650	3,126
1995	Madrid	4,306	5,146
1997	Sydney	4,079	5,096
1999	Buenos Aires	4,320	5,232

^aInterpretation of recorded attendance numbers in various reports is sometimes difficult. For example, exhibitors are sometimes delineated clearly in figures for total attendance, and sometimes not.

^bThe authors have not been able to locate firm figures for the Montreal Congress.

Table 5. Percent acceptance of original full-length manuscripts submitted to *Kidney International* by year

Year	%	Year	%
1972	30.4	1986	35.7
1973	36.4	1987	39.4
1974	28.8	1988	34.0
1975	28.0	1989	35.8
1976	30.4	1990	38.0
1977	28.3	1991	33.6
1978	36.7	1992	34.0
1979	42.2	1993	31.6
1980	37.8	1994	39.2
1981	44.3	1995	38.6
1982	39.3	1996	39.9
1983	40.1	1997	38.0
1984	38.1	1998	40.0
1985	29.8	1999	41.7

Table 6. Forefronts conferences 1986–2000

1. Molecular Biology and the Kidney, USA, 1986 (D. Granner, H.R. Jacobson and R.R. Robinson)
2. Signal Transduction, USA, 1988 (Ausello, Williams)
3. Membrane Polarity in Epithelial Cells, Switzerland, 1989 (Rosier, Louvard)
4. Lymphocyte Activation, France, 1989 (Bach/Strom)
5. Optical Techniques in Renal Research, USA, 1990 (Spring, K.A. Jacobson)
6. Mesangial Cells and Extracellular Matrix, Germany, 1991 (Sterzl)
7. Cellular and Molecular Biology in Basement Membranes in Health and Disease, USA, 1991 (Nielson/Kefalides)
8. Newer Aspects of Renal Cell Injury, USA, 1991 (Epstein, Mandel)
9. Ion Channels, USA, 1992 (Palmer, Aldrich)
10. Mechanisms of Renin-Angiotensin Synthesis and Release, Australia, 1994 (Coghlan, Corvol)
11. Molecular Basis of Renal Cystic Disease, Canada, 1994 (Grantham, Dirks)
12. Regulation of Cell Compartments and Cytoskeletons, Japan, 1994 (Imai, Kurokawa, Hirokawa, Petersen)
13. Hemodynamic Effect of NO, Spain, 1995 (Wilcox, Furchgott)
14. Phosphate Transport: Regulation and Molecular Biology, Switzerland, 1995 (Müser, Biber)
15. Oxygen Sensing on the Cellular and Molecular Level, Germany, 1996 (Kurtz, Bauer)
16. Adhesion Molecules and Extracellular Matrix in Renal Cell Injury, USA, 1996 (Border, Ruoslahti)
17. Molecular Mechanisms of Hypertension, Germany, 1997 (Luft, Haller, Ganten)
18. The Regulation of Renal Growth, USA, 1998 (Preisig, Roberts, Sterzl)
19. Channelopathies,^a USA, 1998 (Hebert, George, Guzzino, Stanton)
20. News in Aldosterone Action, France, 1999 (Farmin, Verley, Garty, Rossier, Funder)
21. Gene Therapy, USA, 2000 (Klotman, Woo)
22. Regulation of Membrane Proteins, Japan, 2000 (Sasaki, Kurachi, Seino)

^aJoint ISN/ASN Conference

Table 7. ISN Fellowship awards

Year	Full-time	Short-time	Supplementary
1985	6	0	0
1986	6	0	0
1987	3	0	0
1988	4	0	0
1989	8	0	0
1990	7	0	0
1991	11	0	0
1992	15	0	0
1993	14	0	0
1994	19	1	0
1995	11	2	0
1996	14	1	0
1997	20	8	0
1998	16	21	2
1999	19	6	4

All awards were activated (cancellations were deleted). Full-time awards are defined as 12 months or more; short-term awards are less than 12 months; supplementary awards are approved 1-year awards in which the Fellows or his/her sponsor contribute to the source of funding.

Table 8. ISN Honorary Lectures

The D.W. Seldin Lecture (Established 1993)			
Year	Location	Lecturer	Title
1993	Jerusalem	M.J. Berridge (UK)	Phosphoinositides and Cell Signaling
1995	Madrid	A.G. Gilman (USA)	G-Proteins and Adenylyl Cyclases
1997	Sydney	M. Yanagisawa (USA)	Endothelin
1999	Buenos Aires	T. Kishimoto (Japan)	Cytokines and Chemokines
The C. Amiel Lecture (Established 1997)			
Year	Location	Lecturer	Title
1997	Sydney	D. Bichet (Canada)	Nephrogenic Diabetes Insipidus
1999	Buenos Aires	R. Lifton (USA)	The Role of the Kidney in Blood Pressure Variation: Insights from Human Genetic Studies

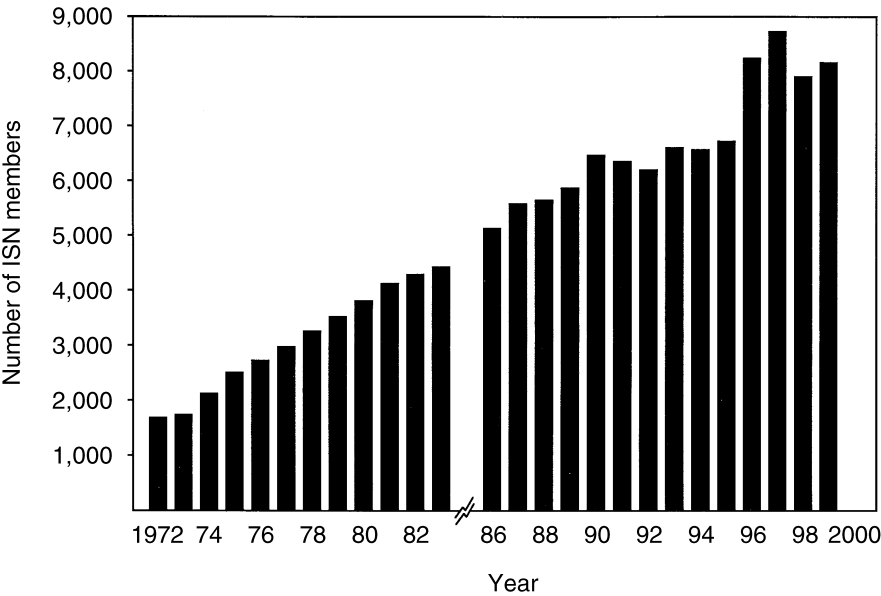


Fig. 1. ISN Membership, 1972–1999.

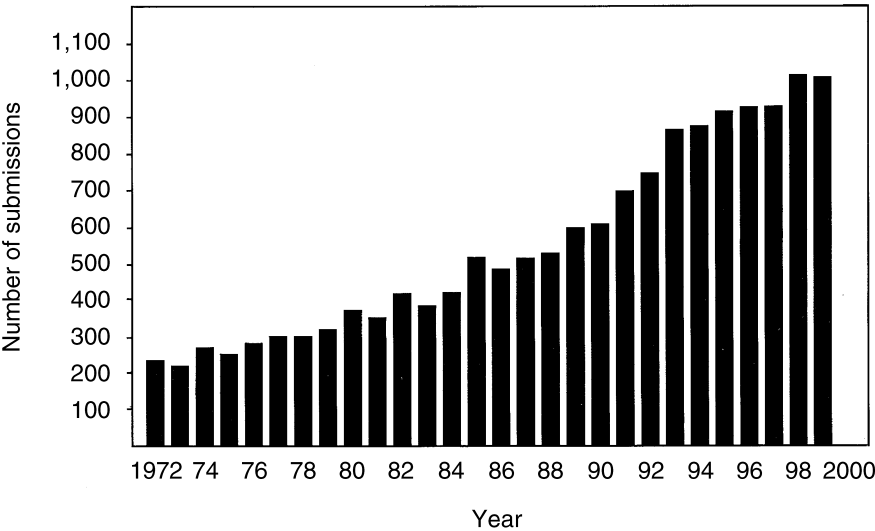


Fig. 2. Submissions of original full-length manuscripts to *Kidney International*, 1972–1989.

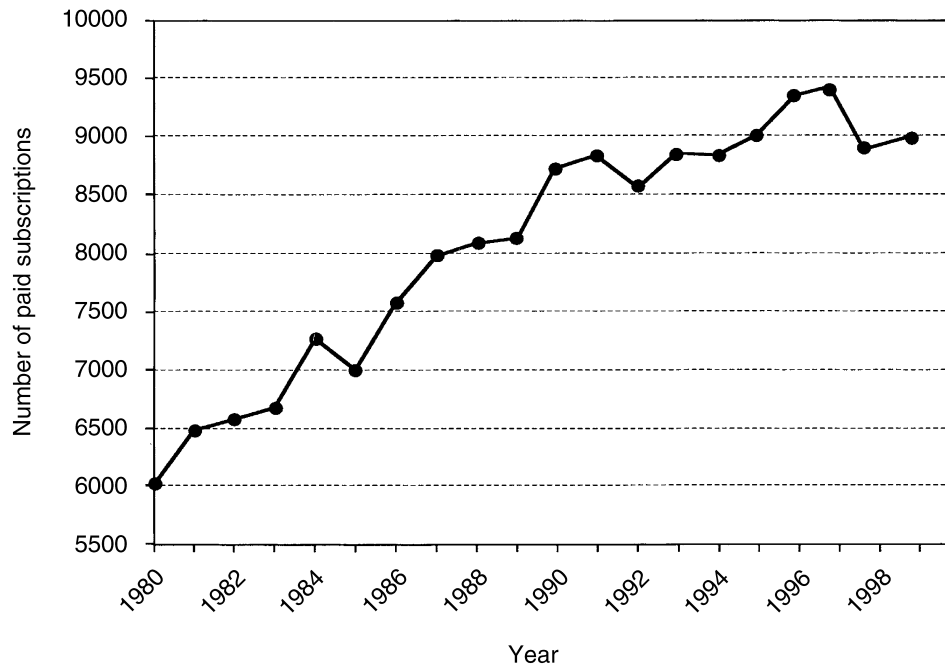


Fig. 3. Paid circulation to *Kidney International*, 1980–1999.



Fig. 4. ISN Library Enhancement and Educational Slide Program as Presented at the XIV ISN Congress, Sydney, 1997. Darkened geographic areas reflect areas in which libraries were recipients of books, *KI*, and educational slides. (Courtesy of R.W. Schrier)

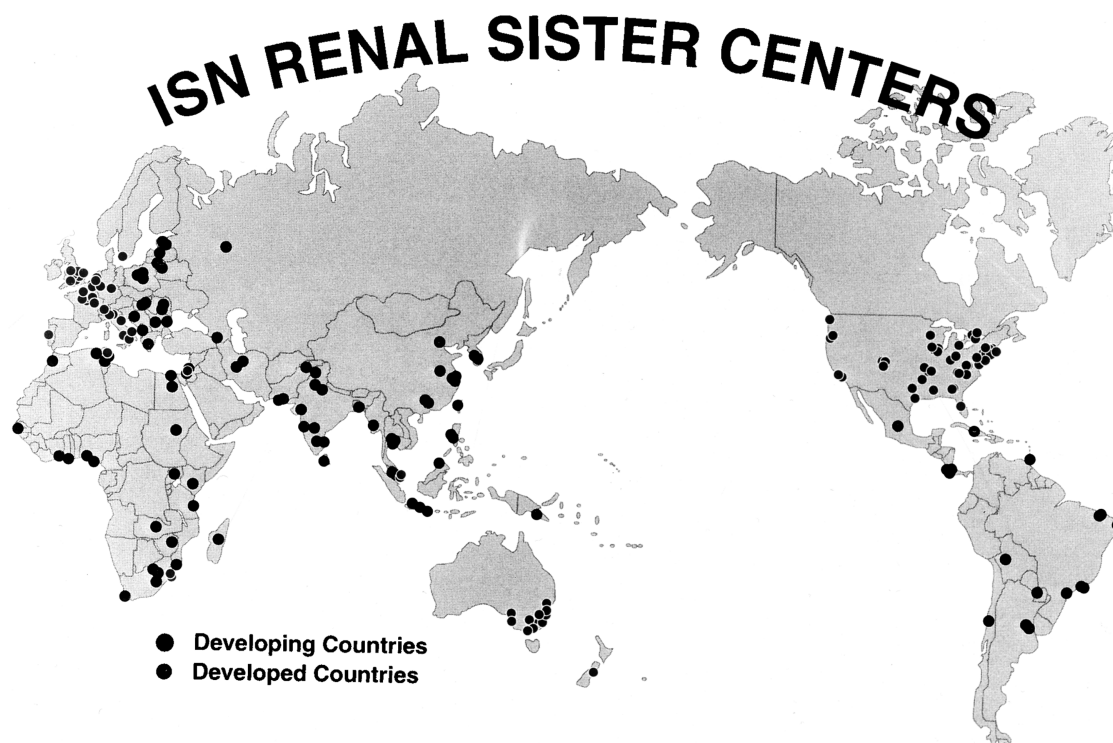


Fig. 5. ISN Renal Sister Centers as presented at the XIV ISN Congress, Sydney, 1997. Larger dots reflect participating centers in developed countries; smaller dots reflect those in emerging countries. (Courtesy of R.W. Schrier)

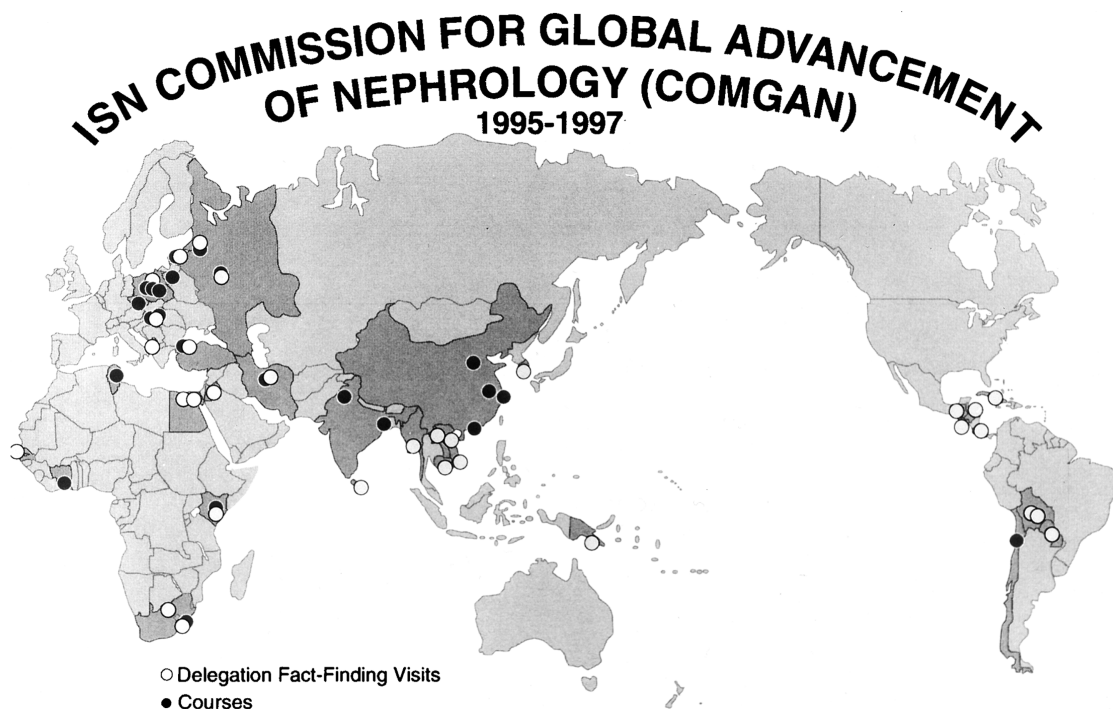


Fig. 6. COMGAN activities in 1995-1997. (Courtesy of R.W. Schrier)